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Thursday, May 22, 2025

Otsego installs new electronic sign at Brookside Park

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

The City of Otsego has a new way to disseminate information to its residents.

On Monday, May 19, a sign was installed in front of Brookside Park on M-89 that has the ability to display electronic messages regarding upcoming events and other City news.

"This sign will serve a couple of purposes," Otsego City Manager Aaron Mitchell said. "Its clean and contemporary appearance provides some good community marketing, but it also can serve as a wonderful source to get community information out to the endless traffic going down M-89."

Messages for the sign are controlled via an app.

"The technology is pretty impressive and incredibly versatile for different content," Mitchell said. "It will take us a little bit to learn all of its tricks, but we are all excited about utilizing it going forward with general information. Things like dates for hydrant flushing or leaf pickup and for any emergency information such as a road closure or water main break."

The bidding process for the sign took place late last year, with the City receiving quotes from three companies. Ultimately, the decision was made to go with Jiffy Signs of Livonia.

"Jiffy Signs comes with some impressive clients such as GM and Ford from the east side of the state," Mitchell said. "I think they knocked it out of the park."

The idea to add a sign like this actually began three years ago when officials were conducting public hearings to consider a special assessment to pay for the City's public safety.

"During those meetings, the community spoke up and questioned our ability to get information out to them," Mitchell said. "Whether it was public meetings, budget presentations or general information, residents were concerned about us sharing information with them."

This concern was raised despite the fact that the City was posting information on its website, on its Facebook page and in The Union Enterprise.

"It's a different world than it was 25 years ago," Mitchell said. "Fair or not, people did not feel like we were being transparent enough.

"In fact, at one time I was told that we needed a publicist to get information out to the community. That would be nice, but we are a small staff and do the best we can while trying to being good stewards of taxpayer money."

Mitchell began having discussions with the City's various department heads to determine options to keep the public better informed. It was then that the idea for a sign with messages came up.

Going forward, the plan will be to create some smaller similar signs for City buildings and parks.

"Those would not only be smaller, but will also not have the message-board component to them," Mitchell said. "But we would want to keep the same branding. That, of course, is assuming that this sign is well-received and the future budgets allow for it.

"I feel like we can make great strides in the City's signage and hopefully this is the first step in that direction. I hope the community enjoys it."

This photo from Saugatuck shows some of the damage left in the wake of the powerful storm that tore through Allegan County on Thursday, May 15. (Photo by Jim Hayden)

Two tornadoes touched down in Allegan County

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

A strong storm system that ripped through the area on Thursday, May 15, caused extensive damage in Allegan County and left many residents with no power for an extended period of time.

In response to the devastation—which included the confirmation of two tornadoes by the National Weather Service—the Allegan County Board of Commissioners officially declared a state of emergency to "support response and recovery efforts throughout the county."

According to Allegan County Emergency Management coordinator Sarah Clark, declaring a state of emergency empowers county officials to access additional resources and expedite emergency response activities. It also allows officials to request mutual aid from surrounding jurisdictions and the State of Michigan.

"We will continue to coordinate with local, state and federal partners to assess needs and provide support," Clark said. "Our top priority is the safety and well-being of all Allegan County residents."

The areas hit hardest by the storm, according to Clark, included the communities of Martin, Dorr, Wayland, Hopkins, the City of Allegan and portions of the lakeshore near Saugatuck and Douglas.

The first of the two confirmed tornadoes to hit Allegan County touched down at 10:28 p.m. near Sandy Pines campground in Hopkins and was categorized as EF-1. It had winds of 90 miles per hour that lasted for approximately five minutes, according to the National Weather Service.

Damage included many uprooted trees.

The second tornado developed near the intersection of 114th Avenue and 16th Street before moving into downtown Martin at 10:41 p.m.

A downed power pole and several uprooted trees were left behind.

In response to the storm and the devastation it caused, the Allegan County Community Foundation announced it had activated its Disaster Response Fund.

"We are seeking your support to assist those impacted," ACCF said in a statement. "Your donations will provide essential resources for local nonprofits and agencies, aiding residents in shelter, repairs, and recovery. Join us in this crucial effort."

Clark encourages residents who sustained damage to their homes or property to using the county's damage reporting tool, which can be found at https://www.allegancounty.org/courts-law-enforcement/emergency-operations.

Residents in need of assistance can also contact the American Red Cross at 1-800-RED-CROSS.

Crews search for man who went missing in Kalamazoo River

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

PLAINWELL—A man went missing in the Kalamazoo River in Plainwell on Saturday, May 17.

According to Plainwell Department of Public Safety director Kevin Callahan, the Allegan County Central Dispatch received a 911 call at 12:49 p.m. reporting that an elderly male standing on the bridge over the Kalamazoo River on US-131.

The caller indicated that the man was standing over the guardrail at the edge of the bridge.

Officers from the Plainwell Public Safety were promptly dispatched to assess the situation. Upon arrival, the responding officer found the man's vehicle parked on US-131 and observed the man standing in a shallow area of the river below the bridge.

"When the officer attempted to engage with the subject, he did not respond and subsequently submerged himself in the water," Callahan said in a statement.

Plainwell Fire Rescue and Allegan County Sheriff's Office personnel were immediately dispatched to provide water rescue support.

Other agencies that assisted with the situation were:

* Allegan County Dive Team
* Otsego Police Department
* Otsego Fire Department
* Saugatuck Fire Department
* Allegan County West Side Drone Team
* Gobles Pine-Grove Fire Department
* Michigan State Police Wayland Post
* Michigan Department of Natural Resources
* Michigan State Police Air Support
* Plainwell EMS

"Authorities are continuing their efforts to locate the individual," Callahan said in the release. "Further updates will be provided as information becomes available."

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Community Events

Community Calendar - Week of May 19, 2025

EVENTS TO WATCH FOR!

Fri., May 23, 2025, 8:30pm-12:30am: Glow Disc Golf Night
First Baptist Church S. M-40 Allegan
Fun for the family to support the Congregational Kitchen free meals.

Mon., May 26, 2025: Memorial Day
Find the celebration near you in the Memorial Day article.

Don't forget to register for
Fri., May 30 & Sat. May 31, 2025, 5pm: 12th Annual Living History Cemetery Tour
Oakwood Cemetery Western Ave. Allegan
Tickets are on sale at Allegan City Hall.

CURRENT EVENTS

Wed., May 21, 2025: Register for the Multi-Chamber After Hours
Bay Pointe Inn 11456 Marsh Rd, Shelbyville
RSVP at director@alleganchamber.com or call 269 673-2479.

Wed., May 21, 2025, 6pm: Friends on Wednesday – Ellis & M.E. Band
First Presbyterian Church 200 Cutler St. Allegan
"Relax and Restore Workshop" will have a free donation at the door. Come and learn how music plays an important part in learning how to relax. Catherine Ellis will teach gentle breath and relaxation techniques, and practice with live acoustic music designed to produce a calming response in participants.

Wed., 21, 2025, 6:30pm: Pub Quiz Trivia
Tantrick Brewing Co 243 Hubbard St. Allegan
Gather a team and library card and enjoy a evening of competition. Registration begins at 5:30pm.

Wed., May 21, 2025: Bike Nights
Wayland Downtown Wayland
downtownwayland.com

Thurs., May 22, 2025, 8am-2pm: Allegan Farmers Market
Corner of Water & Cutler Streets Allegan
Find fresh produce, crafts and fresh plants along with food from The Mobile Crave.

Thurs., May 22, 2025, 10am-1pm: Volunteer Day
Allegan Pollinator Garden Trowbridge & Cedar St. Allegan
Sponsored by the Allegan Conservation District. Spend as much or as little time as you wish. For additional information and to volunteer, call Conservation Technician Jason Cass at (269) 454-1487.

Thurs., May 22, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Preschool Story Time - Children 3-5 can enjoy stories, games, songs and crafts.
3:30pm: Tween STEAM Club: Squishy Circuits – 5th-8th graders can join the Tween STEAM Club and do simple science experiments with Squishy Circuits! Register at 269 673-4625.

Fri., May 23, 2025, 6pm: Teen Tech Night
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
6th-12th graders take over the library after hours to enjoy all variations of technology. Register at 269 673-4625.

Fri., May 23, 2025, 8:30pm-12:30am: Glow Disc Golf Night
First Baptist Church S. M-40 Allegan
All are invited to play glow disc golf at FBC to support the work of the Congregational Kitchen. Instructions will be given. This Friday will be a practice run. Bring your friends. Questions? Call Keith (269) 673-5683.

Mon., May 26, 2025: Memorial Day
Find the celebration near you in the Memorial Day article.

Mon., May 26, 4-8pm: Stitch Night at the Den
Bear & Fox Yarn Den Brady St. Allegan
Bring a project and drop in for a casual evening of stitching.

Tues., May 27, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10:30am: Lapsit Storytime with Help Me Grow
0-2 year olds and caregivers can listen to stories and do fun activities.
1pm: Friends of the Library Meeting - All are invited.

Wed., May 28, 2025: Library Fun
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
10am: Play Café – Caregivers can enjoy refreshments while little ones have supervised play
6pm: Michigan Children's Author Talk – Lisa Dorvinen – MI author explains how she uses life experiences and passions to create stories.

Wed., May 28, 2025, 2:30-4pm: MACC Membership Meeting
Ransom District Library Plainwell
This is an opportunity to network with other MACC members, share updates for your organization, and learn about what other organizations are up to. The event is free; there will be some light refreshments available. Please RSVP at https://form.jotform.com/250435370272047.

Wed., May 28, 2025, 2-4pm: Friends on Wednesday – Potluck Picnic
Allegan Riverfront Come down the A1 Tech drive.
FoW will provide sandwiches. Bring a dessert, side dish or whatever you would like to share. Bring family and friends. A walk will be taken to see the progress on Mahan Park. Call to inform FoW how many sandwiches to order for you and your friends. (269) 673-4631

Wed., May 28, 2025, 5-7pm: Multi-Chamber After Hours
Bay Pointe Inn 11456 Marsh Rd, Shelbyville
Register by May 21 at director@alleganchamber.com or call 269 673-2479.

Thurs., May 29, 2025, 8am-2pm: Allegan Farmers Market
Corner of Water & Cutler Streets Allegan
Find fresh produce, crafts and fresh plants along with food from The Mobile Crave.

Thurs, May 29, 2025, 10:30am: Preschool Storytime
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
2-5 year olds are treated to stories and fun with Help Me Grow.

Thurs., May 29, 2025, 5-7pm: Multi-Chamber After Hours
Bay Pointe Inn 11456 Marsh Rd, Shelbyville
Register by May 21 at director@alleganchamber.com or call 269 673-2479.

Fri., May 30 & Sat. May 31, 2025, 5pm: 12th Annual Living History Cemetery Tour
Oakwood Cemetery Western Ave. Allegan
Learn the lore and legend brought to life with first person portrayals of those who now reside at the cemetery. Multiple groups travel each evening with a tour guide. Ticket sales go to clean and repair the headstones. Check Friends of the Oakwood Cemetery to reserve a spot.

Sat., May 31, 2025, 8am: Allegan Antique Market
Allegan County Fairgrounds Fair St. Allegan
Shop through hundreds of vendors.

Sat., May 31, 2025, 9am-1pm: Native Plant Sale
Allegan Conservation District 2412 Taft Rd. Allegan
Sponsored by the Allegan Conservation District. For additional information, contact Allegan.Admin@macd.org.

Sat., May 31, 2025, 10am: Eccentric Garden's 2 Year Celebration
Eccentric Garden 136 Brady St. Allegan
Enjoy the love of plants and more with goodie bags, discounts and prizes to thank the community for their support.

Sat., May 31, 2025, 10:30am: Jumpstart Your Genealogy
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Begin or continue exploring your family history with Megan Heyl.

Mon., June 4, 2025, 6pm: Act Out
Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard St. Allegan
Drop in and learn about acting from Spike Kunetz, a veteran of the Chicago theater scene.

Wed., June 4, 2025, 7pm: Austin Lanier, motivational speaker
Wayland Union Fine Arts Center Wayland
The whole community is invited to enjoy the conversation with Austin Lanier to discuss mental health, suicide prevention and healthy identity. Special thanks to the Wayland Union Education Foundation.

Wed., June 4 – Sat., June 7, 2025: GLAMARAMA
Allegan Co. Fairgrounds Allegan
The Great Lakes Area Motor Coach Association Annual Rally will take over the fairgrounds to highlight the best in camping.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

ASSISTANCE

Adventist Community Service Center
218 S. Farmer St. Otsego Tues. 10am-4pm; Thurs. 1-5pm
Clothes for the family and household goods are available, layettes for newborns, clothing, diapers, toys, etc. for babies to 6 mo. For emergency needs, call 269 694-4775 or Marlene 269 217-8293. This is supported by the 7th-Day Adventist Church and an ACCF TAG Grant.

Allegan County Community Action - Assistance for daily living
23 Water Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.communityactionallegan.org, (269) 673-5472
Food, weatherization, early childhood education.

Allegan Homeless Solutions - Helping eliminate barriers to housing.
108 Grant St., Plainwell MI 49080
www.alleganhomelesssolutions.org, Email: info@alleganhomelesssolutions.org

The Arc of Allegan County - Advocates for people with disabilities
219 Hubbard Street, Allegan 269 673-8841
Mission to advocate for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the community.

Baby Closet – Newborn Clothing and Supplies
Diaper Closet – monthly diaper program
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street Allegan
Call 269 673-2254 and leave a message.

Christian Neighbors - Food, Education, Emergency Financial Assistance
282 12th Street Plainwell MI 49080 (269) 685-4166
Monday: Drive-thru only - 10am-12pm and 4pm-6pm.
Tuesday: In person shopping/walk ins - 10am-12pm
Thursday: In person shopping/walk ins - 2pm-5pm
We have been providing services to the Plainwell, Otsego and Martin areas since 1983.

Community Clothes Closet – Free Clothing and More
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 101 N. Walnut Street, Allegan (269) 673-2254
Open Fridays, 10am – 1pm A wide selection of clothing for all ages is available.

People Helping People of Pullman
Assistance by appt. 269 236-6295

Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center - Abuse Prevention and Healing
404 Sherman St., Allegan, MI 49010 www.safeharborcac.org, (269) 673-3791

St. Vincent de Paul-St. Margaret Conference - Food and More
St. Vincent de Paul 124A W. Allegan St. Otsego
Mon.: 1-3pm Tues. & Thurs: 10am to noon Wed.: 3-5pm
Food pantry and limited financial aid. Dtvincentdepaul9005@gmail.com
Serves Otsego, Plainwell and Martin School Districts

Sylvia's Place - Safe from Domestic Violence
Crisis Line: 269 673-8700

United Church of Wayland - Free Clothing
1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month, 4 - 6pm
411 E Superior St. in Wayland

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Summer Tech Camp Now Open to 5th Grade Students!
Allegan Tech Center is excited to announce that this year's Summer Tech Camp is now open to students entering 5th grade, in addition to those entering **6th, 7th, & 8th** grades.
This hands-on camp offers students the opportunity to explore technology, build new skills, and experience fun, project-based learning in a supportive environment.
When: June 9 – 13, 8:30 A.M -12 P.M
Camp Cost: $45 ($60 per family)
Transportation is provided at no additional charge
Visit allegantechcenter.org to learn more!
Pay and register online at allegantechcenter.org → Follow the Tech Camp Link or scan this QR code
Tech Center ALLEGAN AREA ESA
2891 116th Ave. (M-222), Allegan, MI 49010
269-512-7800

Community Events

Wings of Hope Hospice & Palliative Care - End of Life Care
530 Linn Street, Allegan, MI 49010, www.wingsofhopehospice.com, (269) 686-8659

FOOD

Allegan Food Pantry
Church of God, 1313 Lincoln Rd., Allegan
Monday: 10 am–1pm; Tues.: 2–7pm; Fri. 1-4pm Curbside Service
Contact: Phone: 269 686-6369
Deliveries are made to homebound senior citizens.

Christian Neighbors, SE
282 12th St. Plainwell 269 685-4166

Christian Neighbors, Wayland
122 Church St. Wayland 269 792-2870

Congregational Kitchen - Thursday Dinner Pickup
Congregational Church 325 Cutler Street Allegan
Call (269) 673-3139 after 3pm any Thursday and place an order.
Thursdays: Pick up 3 to 5:30 pm. Takeout dinners only during COVID-19

Epiphany Lutheran Church
4219 Park Land Dorr 616 681-0791

Food Truck - 3rd Friday of each month, 4:30 - 5:30pm
United Church of Wayland
411 E Superior St. in Wayland

Hamilton Christian Reformed Church / Love INC
3596 47th St. Hamilton, 269 751-2533

The Hands of Grace Food Pantry
United Methodist Church, 409 Trowbridge St., Allegan 269 673-4236
Tuesday: 9-11:45 a.m.; Wednesday: 9-11:45 a.m. and 7-9 p.m.; Friday: 10-11:45 a.m.
Food Pantry serves FOOD to residents of Allegan 49010 w/valid ID with current address ONLY.

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 Maple St. Hopkins
269 793-7340

Hungry for Christ
4565 135th Ave. Hamilton, 269 264-1307 x1000

Ladders of Hope USA - Food Assistance
717 East Main St, Fennville, MI 49408, www.laddersofhopemi.org, (269) 455-9452

Martin Area Resource Center
1445 10th St, Martin (269) 672-5605
No appointment needed. Pick up by one person per household.

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St. Martin 269 672-7097

Mobile Food Pantry, 2nd Monday of the Month: Drive Thru Food Distribution
Casco United Methodist Church 880 66th ST, South Haven MI 49090
Pantry items a pre-packaged. Limit - one box per vehicle.

Project Hope
1808 143rd Ave. Dorr
616 681-4673 appt. only

The Vine Food Pantry / Love, INC
Christ Community Church
3370 113th Ave, Allegan, MI · (269) 673-2329

Wayland Farners Market
Apr. – Oct. Wed. & Sat.
Downtown Wayland

FUN FOR THE FAMILY

Bingo!, Wednesdays, 6pm: American Legion Hall
Senior Bingo!, Tuesdays from 1-3pm: American Legion Hall
Corner of Eastern Avenue and Hooker, Allegan

Allegan District Library, M-Th 10am-8pm, F 10am-5:30pm, Sat.10am-4pm:
Plus, Carnegie Corner Bookstore (Friend available on Tuesdays)

Allegan District Library 331 Hubbard Street, lower level Allegan (269) 673-4625

Allegan County Historical Society, Old Jail Museum.
Saturdays, 10 am – 4 pm, (269) 673-8292. Call to confirm hours or arrange for a private tour.
Email: oldjailmuseum06@yahoo.com Webpage: www.alleganoldjail.com

Iron Bridge Quilters - Thursdays, 10am-2pm
Blessed Sacrament Church 110 Cedar St. Allegan
All ages and levels of expertise are welcome. Create a piece for yourself, for a friend or for a charity. Contact Claudia at acrasmussen5@gmail.com or (269) 673-4579 for more information.

Rivertown Fitness for All Ages and Families
Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-11am, Core and More fitness classes for all ages and all levels to improve overall health, strength and well-being will be offered at Rivertown Gym & Fitness, 739 Airway Dr. Allegan. Call Todd at 269 686-7900 or email rivertowngym@gmail.com for additional information.

Scouting: Allegan has a variety of scouting opportunities. Each group is meeting in different ways to stay safe.
Cub Scout Pack 3026: Grades K-5. Call Cub Master Ron Gunter ron.f.gunter@gmail.com
Boy Scouts BSA 91 (boys 11-17 yrs.): Contact Scout Master Rob Keen 269 568-0435, eckeen1112@gmail.com
Girls Troop BSA 191 (girls 11-17): Contact Sara Keen sarajkeen@gmail.com.

Senior Fitness/Fit Over 50: Fun fitness designed for ages 50-80plus!
Hicks Gym, 311 E Plainwell Street, Plainwell. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 9am. Drop in or call Sharrin at 269-330-3204 or email at denzgirllc@att.net.

The Fairways:
237 Hubbard St. Allegan (269) 655-5890
Get assistance with accuracy, distance, course management, club selection, or distance control. Work on a simulator, and treat it like a practice session at the course to achieve overall game improvement.

Tilt 118: Ice Cream, Pinball Machines, Food and More
Tilt 118 118 Brady St. Allegan
Pinball Leagues, Pinball Classes, Arcade Rental
Contact: Email: smalltownamusements@gmail.com; Phone: 269 720-8137

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at 269-248-2630
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Abandoned Wells
Got one?

The Allegan Wellhead Protection Program is looking for abandoned, unplugged wells.

Abandoned, unused, unplugged wells threaten groundwater resources and public health. Contaminants from the surface such as fertilizers, pesticides or other run off water, can easily move downward through the unsealed, abandoned well and enter the aquifer. These contaminants may end up in your drinking water well, your neighbors well or the local community drinking water wells.

The City of Allegan would like to identify any abandoned, unplugged wells in and around its wellhead protection zone and explore having them plugged. The zone extends east from the city of Allegan along the north side of M-222 east to 24th St.

If you are the owner of the abandoned, unplugged well and would like assistance in plugging the well. Please contact Allegan Water Utilities at 269-686-1117 or by emailing to Doug Sweeris at dsweeris@cityofallegan.org

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- **Meat Perfection** (Mozzarella, Pepperoni, Sausage, Ham, Bacon, Hamburger)
- **"D" AVE Deluxe** (Mozzarella, Pepperoni, Ham, Sausage, Mushrooms, Red Onions, Green Pepper)
- **Hawaiian** (Mozzarella, Ham, Bacon, Pineapple)
- **Hawaiian BBQ Chicken** (BBQ Sauce, Chicken, Mozzarella, Ham, Pineapple)
- **Breakfast Pizza** (Cheese Sauce, Mozzarella and Cheddar Cheese, Scrambled Egg, Pick One: Ham, Bacon, Sausage, Chorizo, Hamburger)
- **Chicken Bacon Ranch** (Ranch Sauce, Chicken, Mozzarella Cheese, Bacon)
- **Bacon Cheeseburger Pizza** (Mozzarella and Cheddar Cheese, Hamburger, Bacon)
- **BBQ Chicken Pizza** (BBQ Sauce, Chicken, Bacon, Mozzarella Cheese, Red Onion)

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Crust: Original, Thin Crust
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Plainwell High School Class of 2025

PLAINWELL HIGH SCHOOL

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Seth Hamilton Adams
Noris Natalia Acosta
William Hunter Allen
Trinity Almaguer
John Kelechi Amaezechi
Shawn Anderson
Dominic Thomas Annerino
Brooklyn Christine Arnold
Skylar Adalaide Artman
Lauren Adell Averill
Sophia Barth
Sadie Beck
Lincoln Rae Benson
Liam Patrick Berg
Dakota Berneis-Goodyke
Jordan Robert Bessler-Bly
Jonathan Charles Bil
Aiden Perry Birdsall
Addison Claire Bohne
Sadie Mae Boven
Jacob Russell Bowden
Alexis Bree'ann Bowman
Glenna Pearl Elizabeth Branch
Hannah Elizabeth Browneye
Catalina Pearl Buchino
Ryan Scott Burns
Joshua John Carmody
Shayni Rae Carpenter
Elizabeth Kathryn Carter
Elliott Liam Cassada
Keegin Castaneda
Samantha Marie Colvin
Devin Tyler Lewis Cook
Lauren Grace Cook
Brandon Nicholas Courtney
Zackery Walter Courtney
Henry Carter Cox
Landon Miclain Crapsey
Anna Louise Cutler
River Reed Davis
Eliza De Geyter
Gavin DeBruin
Collin J Decker
Brionna DeJesus
Peyton Ross Dornhecker
Oceana Dos Santos
Allison Marie Doubblestein
Victoria Jane Doxey
Kornelia Dranikowska
Logan Willis Duncan
Nolan Ronald Edgell
Jadyn Lee Erdody
Hannah May Erlandson
Beatrice Federico
Jonas N. Fein
Lily Ferguson
Owen Caleb Ferris
Hailey Grace Fisher
Peyton Patricia Flanagan
Xavier A Foote
Cayden Arne Forsythe
Nieke Friedebold
Jayden Dennis French
Ayla Fey Gatehouse
Matthias Christopher Gazi
Shayden Adam Girton
Brendyn John Glessner
Jaime Gonzalez
Liliana Gonzalez
Mar Gonzalez
Katherine Johnelle Goodwin
Ella Rose Grantham
Colin Gritter
Anthony Guerra Lopez
Serigne Gueye
Graysen Smith Haaksma
Abdul Hamza
Hayli B Hansen
Koh Harada
Hannah Tru Harrison
Easton Douglas Healy
Sophia Ann Heilmann
Brooklyn Rose Herbert
Broderick Charles Hercik
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State needs to have more control over spending

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
■ PUBLISHER ■

I shake my head at some of the shenanigans pulled by leaders we place in public office. Very few of them understand that the money that pays their salaries and funds the programs that run the government come out of our pockets. Maybe understand is not the correct word, maybe they just don't care.

If they did they would be more diligent on how our funds are spent. A case in point would be the $25 million that was granted to a local person in Clare to build a grandiose health park. The local person happened to work for House Majority leader at the time, also a Clare resident. Somehow, someway the bid was granted without seeking competitive bids.

Now if you know anything about Clare County, you know a $25 million project is very unusual. Developers might put together a $5 million or $10 million deal, but $25 million, that's not likely in a rural county of 30,000 population.

A lot has been written about this albatross, but it came to light again this week when the Attorney General filed 7 felony charges against the man, and law enforcement raided his home to search and arrest him.

This is just an egregious example. For too many years individuals have formed non-profits and then petitioned the state for funds, and on many occasions, have been granted them with essentially no oversite.

I remember owning the local newspaper in Hamtramck several years ago and visiting a non-profit in the community. The leaders bragged about how much their charity received from the state while surrounded by custom furniture and pocketing much of the money.

I was told in Detroit this happens all the time. The legislature feels Detroit non-profits are very deserving of our money because it is the state's biggest city and has the greatest need. I got no problem with that assumption, I just have a problem with the lack of controls.

Of course it is worse at the federal level. Legislators have no clue who is getting our money and what they are doing with it. Let's just say a lot of people have gotten rich from non-profit grants.

One of those who thought he might be one of the those, the Clare man, had allegedly used part of the $25 million grant money to buy cars and gold bars. Those items were confiscated by law enforcement in the raid.

The Clare man was a pillar of the community. Beyond being the top aide to the House Majority Leader, he was Executive Director of the Clare Area Chamber of Commerce. He was also elected to the Clare County Road Commission. He was not someone you would expect in a million years to defraud state government.

The fact that he almost got away with it, only because a hired hand-turned state's evidence, is a black mark on the state's ability to manage its budget. I really hope people lost their jobs over this. More importantly I hope the state manages their budget affairs more prudently.

Life as Performance Art

G CORWIN STOPPEL

One of my favorite short stories is The Verger by Somerset Maughn. Mr. Foreman had held the position for decades until the old clergyman retired and a new one was called to serve the parish. It was not very long after that when the new cleric realized that his verger was illiterate. It wasn't that he needed to know how to read do his work; he worked around the challenge. Besides, the parishioners liked him and the work he did. But the new minister had aspirations of turning his parish into a 'society church' and it would not do to have an illiterate verger. Besides, the verger was elderly and needed to be put out to pasture.

He gave Mr. Foreman a month to learn how to read, but it didn't work out. So, he was out the door. Not even a sheet cake or a farewell party.

It was not the loss of his job or an income that bothered him. It was the loss of his sense of value and identity. As he walked home that evening, he reached into his pocket for his pipe and tobacco, but discovered the pouch was empty. He kept walking, and there was not a tobacco store in sight. That gave him an idea, and to cut to the chase scene, he opened his own store. It was so successful that he opened a second, and within a couple of years owned a chain of shops across London and was a wealthy man.

One afternoon the bank manager wanted to see Mr. Foreman about moving some of his savings into bonds that would earn him more money. He had all of the paperwork ready for their meeting, and gently pushed them across his desk for him to sign. Mr. Foreman pushed them back and explained, "I can't read or write."

The banker was astonished and asked, "Can you imagine where you would be today if you could read?" "Yes, I would be the verger of St Peters Neville Square," Mr. Foreman answered wistfully.

Until about 90 years ago, people worked as long as their health would allow it, or until they died. If they were not able to work and had gone through their savings, they relied on their families to care for them or moved to the Country Poor Farm.

Then, as part of President Roosevelt's New Deal, the Social Security program was initiated, with a guaranteed but small old age pension starting at age 65. That year was chosen because actuarials determined that the average person lived until they were 68. Getting them out of the workforce meant there would be more jobs for young people, and that would help return the country to prosperity. The program was billed as a reward for decades of hard work.

What was not considered is how often so many of us find much of our identity throughout work. That seems to apply primarily to men. From what I have observed, women tend to find their sense of identity through connections and relationships. If they retire there are far more opportunities for them to network. Men aren't nearly as successful in that department, and end up being far more lonely, which doctors tell us is not good for our health.

If you watched the 2022 Tom Hanks film, "A Man Called Otto," you understand the social problems created when older people lose their sense of connection and a meaningful life. And then you see them come alive when they have something meaningful to do.

Not surprisingly, after years of dreaming and fantasying about all the leisure time that comes with retirement, it is not very long before many men are going back to work. The money is an extra little bonus, but the real benefits are intangible. It might be the work relationships and connections, but most importantly, it is knowing they still have value and importance in this world.

I noticed it with some of my older friends who had been physicians at the Mayo Clinic. The mandatory retirement age was 65, and no exceptions. In time, the Clinic realized that one size does not fit all, and they made arrangements for part-time, non-tenured opportunities for older former employees. Everyone benefitted.

Mr Leach, a custodian there, decided to take a different route. He had always said he was going to take up golf in retirement but then changed his mind. He put up a notice on the bulletin board at the Piggly Wiggly that he was available to mow lawns. He explained that he couldn't see much point in whacking away at a little white ball and then hiking after it. If he wanted to go for a walk, he'd rather push a mower, bring order out of chaos in a messy lawn, help people, and make some money. With a wink, he added, "under the table."

Going back to work is what happened with a friend of my parents. He had been a tool and die maker at a piston ring factory, and when he was retired, a few months later they hired him as their part time "Fix-it Guy." He knew machinery and could quickly and efficiently make repairs. Each job assignment was a measure of pride and success.

Another acquaintance retired from working as an electrical engineer, realized that he was far too young to be retired (at the age of 70) and began a new chapter in life as a math tutor. He doesn't work full time, but he knows he is making a difference with young people struggling with solid geometry. The money is not much, but he scrupulously invests half of it by taking his wife out every Friday for "date night." The other half is set aside for a cruise in the winter. Mind you, that is not easy. Every year she has to pry him away from his work with a "now hear this" message.

Another fellow saw a help wanted sign in the window of a wine shop, went in, and told the owner he was available. "Do you know much about wine?" he asked. The applicant said, "Well, not a lot, but I know most of it tastes pretty good." He was not hired for his knowledge of wine, but for his people skills.

These recycled former retirees put all of their business and social skills, learned over the decades, back to work. It gives them purpose, and a reason to get up in the morning. That is something we all need. Sometimes it is expressed in interesting ways.

An older gentleman took a job stocking shelves at a store, and some of his friends looked down on him for taking what they considered a low status job. They teased him. One of them called him a stock boy. That did not go over very well. One day the man came through the store and asked, "How's it going, stock boy?"

Those were fighting words, only the employee did not turn the fellow's nose to twelve. Instead, he very calmly said, "You know, I'm the most important man in this store. If it wasn't for me you'd never find what you want because the shelves would be bare."

Once again, it seems that Father was right. One of his little maxims was, "Work is the best kind of fun." For some of us, it is certainly true.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Crossroads For America

Dear Editor:

We are in the mist of becoming an authoritarian government. Laws are being ignored by governmental officials. The executive branch of our government are attacking the media (including free speech), the judicial system, American universities, and attempting to strip our civil liberties.

The following are a fraction of some distressing trends:

1. Do you believe politicians have an obligation to be truthful when under oath during committee hearings? If yes consider that Tulsi Gabbard, Director of National Intelligence, and CIA Director John Ratcliffe lied to Senate members during a Senate hearing.

2. Do you believe that from minor to major pornography should be a federal crime as proposed by the House GOP. This would range from purchasing a magazine to sexual improprieties. Many of the present political leaders would be charged with this GOP proposed bill. This is straight out of the 2025 Project.

3. Do you believe in a $5 Trillion tax break for the wealthiest Americans with severe cuts to Medicaid, SNAP (food stamps), limit climate change strategies, and rolling back ACA (affordable care act for health insurance). All these issues would leave millions without health insurance. Also $350 billion dollars for speedy deportations (this includes some American citizens without any criminal records). This is a GOP proposal that has yet to be passed. Trump is pressuring members of the House of Representatives to hurriedly pass this proposal. If you believe this is good government matters will continue to get worse.

4. Do you believe that Habeas Corpus should be suspended? The GOP and our own President is pushing this unconstitutional move. I'm hoping the answer is a big NO.

5. Do you believe that the person in charge of the nations health (Director of Health and Human Services Robert Kennedy Jr.) should advocate not being vaccinated against preventable diseases, and reducing drastically research for cures of many diseases including cancer (especially children's cancer). If yes the health of our citizens is in peril.

6. Do you believe that transcripts of President Trump's speeches should be hidden from the public? Presently only 20% of transcripts from speeches have been released to the public. The most unhinged comments (which are untrue) have been kept secret. Hopefully most citizens would want transparency from their government. Transparency is one of the things that keeps a democracy healthy.

7. Do you believe in cancelling grants to major universities doing scientific research combating the fight against various diseases that harm society. Columbia and Northwestern in particular have been instrumental in finding cures, but now are being harmed by unethical cuts from the federal government. If you believe these cancellations are beneficial society will definitely become more unhealthy.

8. Do you believe it is good for the Trump family to have ties with the Middle East. It has more than tripled since Trump's first term. No wonder our foreign policy in the Middle East keeps getting worse as time goes by. My hope is that rational people see this as a money grab for Trump and his family which is disgusting.

9.Do you believe it is a coincident that Yale professors are fleeing because of fascism concerns? Yale professors Marci Stone, Timothy Snyder, and Jason Stanley who are career experts on authoritarianism across the world. They are seeing a rise of fascism as so critical and dangerous that they gave up their prestigious posts at Yale, and have been hired at universities in Canada. They believe the crackdown by the Trump Administration in higher education is a major fascist ploy which is dictating what is taught and how it is taught. These are some of the brightest leaving the country. It will be Canada's gain and America's loss.

Take this serious what is happening right before our eyes.

Mark Austin
Hopkins

Are you prepared for Judgment Day?

Dear World and Editor:

I'm tired of people loving their sin and hoping that our government will fail. We need to be lifting them up instead of tearing them down. Where were all of you though the last administration? Oh, yeah, they weren't coming against your sin. In fact, they were promoting it. Stop ridiculing this administration trying to make your lives better. If you don't like them, then turn to prayer. If you don't know how, here is your guide;

"Father God, in Jesus' name, we give thanks for the United States and its Government. We hold up in prayer before You the men and women who are in positions of authority. We pray for the president, vice president, as well as all those who are in authority over us in any way. We pray that the Spirit of the Lord rests upon them, and protection for all of them.

Prov. 2: 10 - 12; We believe that skillful and Godly wisdom has entered into the heart of our president and those over us and knowledge is pleasant to them. Discretion watches over them; understanding keeps and delivers them; Wisdom will save them from the way of evil and evil men. Isaiah 54:17; No weapon formed against them will prosper.

Your Bible, Your word declares that Psalms 33:12; blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.

So we declare with our mouths (not thoughts) that Your people dwell safely in the land, and we prosper abundantly. In the name of the risen, exalted, warrior King Jesus. Amen."

God is watching, He knows what you think and do. There will be a Judgment Day, it is not a fairy tale. Will you be prepared for yours?

Carrie Austin
Allegan

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The Allegan COUNTY NEWS

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Letters to the editor

Town Hall experience leaves writer baffled

Dear Editor:

Some how, I received an invitation to attend a political Town Hall April 14th in Wayland featuring Senator Elissa Slotkin and Representative Bill Huizenga. Having never been to a Town Hall, I decided to attend because I had one question for Senator Slotkin. I thought this would be a perfect opportunity to see two politicians in action, one Democrat and one Republican.

Two chairs were setup in front for the two main speakers. The Town Hall was about to start when Helen, the organizer of the event, announced that Bill Huizenga is a NO show. She sent Bill an email invitation, he replied NO. So she sent another and got no reply so she decided he was coming. Helen went over to the chairs. Pointing to Huizenga's chair, she turned over a large printed poster with "Where's Waldo" in large letters. Helen indicated Bill Huizenga was afraid to meet with his "Constituents"; Democratic supporters? On the poster is "Who's Waldo"? Waldo is a 1993/8 fictional comic strip character.

Senator Slotkin's chair was occupied by a man, Joe for this article, a former State Democratic politician who will take Senator Slotkin's place and answer her questions.

At this announcement, a man jumps up telling Helen the meeting adds totally misrepresented the Town Hall meeting; No Senator or House Representative would be attending. Helen forcefully told the man she had no control over why both key presenters didn't' show up; she repeated this again louder, the man sat down. Helen introduces the first speaker. He talked about being fair, respectful and sympathetic toward indigenous peoples, LGBTQ...+ persons, the poor, … and underprivileged peoples. Followed by several reasons to save the planet.

Joe, the main speaker started out with topics covering many Hot Democratic talking points: We must fight in the streets, in the House, in the Senate, … in the Courts. In 2026 we must reelect a Democrat to fill the Senate seat. Fight against Bill Huizenga; he is running for our Senate seat; Huizenga's afraid of your questions that's why he's no show. Please come forward with your questions.

The first question was, "What is DOGE doing"? Joe responded with advertised TV Democratic words: Musk and Trump are mean, lying, will take your job, … money. I'm next. Hi! I've been living in Michigan for about 20 years and have not been represented in the Senate. Senator Stabenow and Peters have voted about 98% to 95% for their party. Senator Slotkin is following the same pattern, voting about 87% for her party. My question is, "Why are over half of Michiganders not represented in the Senate."

Joe responded, What's Huizenga's record? My replied, Huizenga is not in the Senate. Joe repeats his question; I repeat my answer. Joe follows up with, your percentages are not correct; there are many procedural votes. My response, Joe are you saying the Federal Government's percentages on Senate voting is not accurate? Joe continues with more words with no logic or answer to my question.

At this point the room is very quite. The two women, Helen and another, seated at the microphone tell me my two minutes of questions are over. I ask Joe, are you OK with the last four years? The women tells me, Your time is over and manually shuts off the microphone. My Town Hall experience is ended, no answer provided. Walking out of the Town Hall, I hear Joe shout, he's a Republican! I would have responded, as Christian I follow the Ten Commandments.

Are you following the Democratic Party's commandments?

Phil Zamlynski

Obituaries

Judy Mae Zimmerman, 72

8/9/52-5/13/2025

Judy was carried to heaven on angel wings at the Wings Home in Allegan on a beautiful day in May just as the trees were flowering and the animals were giving birth. She truly loved nature and was at home among all God's creatures.

She spent the majority of her life in the Allegan area. She worked for Querback's Leather repairing leather garments. When Querback's closed she bought her machine from them and went into business herself. A talented seamstress, she sewed for hospice patients, the US Army, Perrigo, the laundromat and individuals throughout the county. Along with sewing, she worked for Hoffman's Produce and Hillside Learning Center.

Judy Mae Zimmerman

Judy is survived by her sister Bonnie (John) Morse, sister in law Mary Koester, step son Dale (Livvie) Zimmerman of California, Aunt Dorrie (Jim) of Washington State, her dear friend Isabelle Carson and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents Charles and Ione Koester, her sister Lana Koester and her brother Chuck Koester.

Per her wishes cremation has taken place.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date

Vickie Lee (Allen) Moored, 71

Vickie Lee (Allen) Moored, a woman of unwavering strength, departed to be with her Savior, Jesus Christ, on the morning of April 27, 2025, at home in Allegan, Michigan. She was surrounded by her family, best friend Brenda, and beloved dogs, a testament to her enduring spirit. Vickie, the daughter of Wesley and Francine (Cornell) Allen, was born on September 8, 1953, in Allegan, Michigan. Both of her parents and her brother and sister-in-law, Dennis (Pauline Sill) Allen, preceded her in death. She was reunited in Heaven with her husband, Ronald (Terry) Moored, and daughter, Jodi Lynn Moored. Vickie's heart guided her life, as she spent most of her time caring for and racing horses, and her kind heart extended to every stray that came to her doorstep, both human and animal. She will be remembered for her openness and sharp tongue, but primarily for her ability to always make the best of every situation that life threw her way. She was a fighter until the end. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Michael and April (Golombieski) Moored of Allegan. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren were the greatest joy in her life. She spent many hours with them, and you could often find them at the family farm playing and having fun. She left behind her grandchildren, Alyssa Burkert and Jackie McCoy, and their children Jadelynn, Bryliegh, and Laiton; Jacob (Pockets) Golombieski and Raquella Pettit and their children Willow, Meadow, and Alder; John Moored and Tori (Tess) Smith and their children Lyric, and Leah; and Noah Verile and Hannah Oatman and their son Leon (Gus). She was also survived by brother-in-law Clyde and Marilyn Moored and sister-in-law Marilyn Ziegler as well as nieces and nephews. Vickie's ashes will be laid to rest in a private family ceremony, and a memorial to celebrate her life will be held on.... June 1, 2025 from 1-4 at American Legion of Allegan

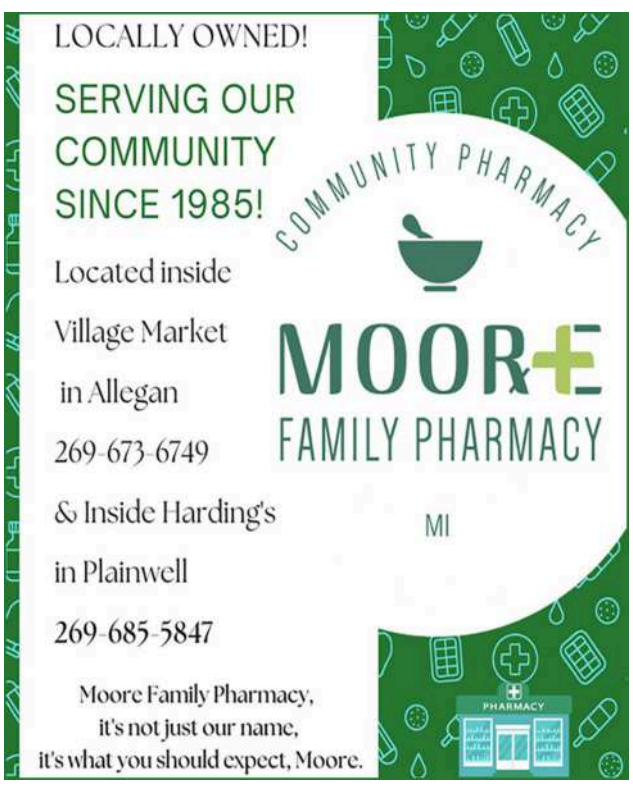
Vickie Lee Moored

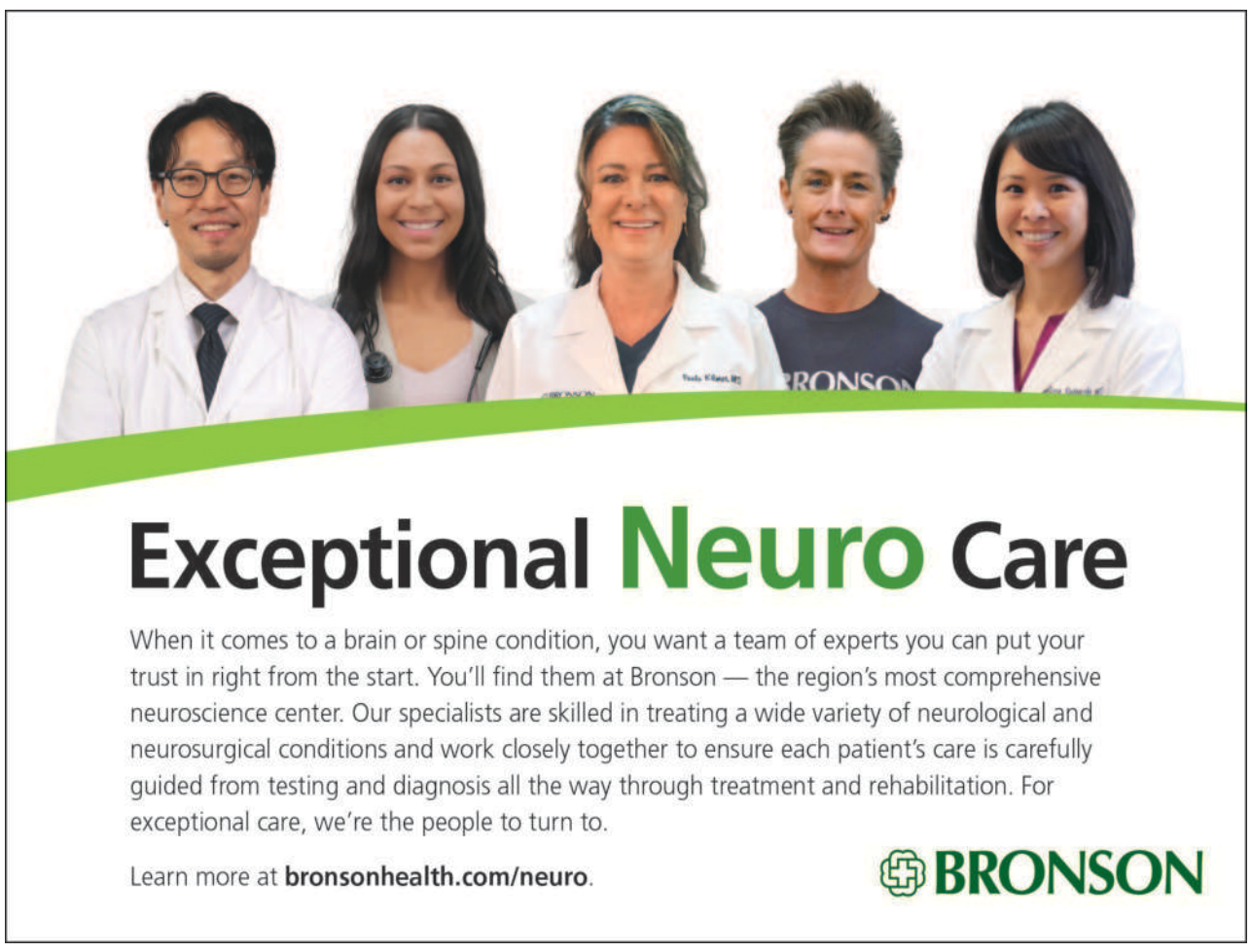
Obituaries

John Paul (J.P) Smith, 87

John Paul (J.P) Smith went to be with his Lord and savior May 7th 2025. Age 87 Born March 28, 1938 to Lyle and Thelma Smith allegan, mi.In his younger years he used to go ice skating on the pond near the farm. He also would break up ice on the edge of the pond to bring home to make homemade ice cream. He used to pull sisters marietta and Carol to the blackman school on a sled because they were little and he said they walked too slow. When sister carol was born on his 9th birthday he was disappointed because he wanted a brother. As a teenager he had a cushman eagle scooter he drove like a maniac. He graduated from Allegan High School 1956. Sometime between high school and the Army he went to a trade school in the delton mi area. He served in the Army from 1957-1959, stationed in Germany. He met Susan Mildred Conley they were married May 20th 1961. Surviving are their children: Jeff (Sherri) Smith West Olive MI, Loretta (Lori) (Brian Jacobs) Smith Crawford TN, Julie Smith Allegan MI. Grandchildren: Nicole and Jessica Smith, Travis (Brittany) Vargo, Tiffany (Matt) Smith. Great Grandchildren: Kensley, Karter, Emma & Riley Vargo, Sunny & Sadie Smith. Sisters Carol (George) Hoffman Plainwell, MI, Linda Tooker Allegan, MI. Brother Dan (Linda) Smith Kalamazoo, MI. He was preceded in death by his parents Lyle and Thelma Smith, his wife Susan Smith, sisters Jeanne Smith and Marietta Stoughton, Sons in laws Randy Smith and Marty Culver. Numerous aunts uncles and cousins. J.P. worked construction and at Rockwell International in Allegan until it closed in 1991. Also several part time jobs after he retired. He went to First Baptist Church in Allegan for a long time and when he and mom were older the Allegan Bible Church. He loved his Ham radio and the Ham radio club he belonged to. He was a member of the Allegan County Historical Society for many years. He and mom volunteered at the puzzle barn during the fair for several years. He learned how to make and put together 6 stick puzzles and also a metal one. He always had his coffee pot with him and his crock pot of chili or whatever else he decided to bring and share. He loved to garden, had had 3 gardens at one time, one just for tomatoes. He especially liked growing cabbage and brussel sprouts. He had chickens and sold eggs for a lot of years. A memorial service will be Wednesday May 28th, 2025 at Starks Filbrandt Chapel 1076 South Bailey Ave South Haven MI. Visitation at 10am Service at 11am Interment Miner Cemetery 1700 20th St Allegan MI. Luncheon to follow at Journey Family Church 514 West Vanburen St Gobles MI. Donations may be made in John (J.P.) Smiths name. To the Alzheimer's Association, The Allegan County Historical Society or Journey Family Church.

John Paul (J.P) Smith



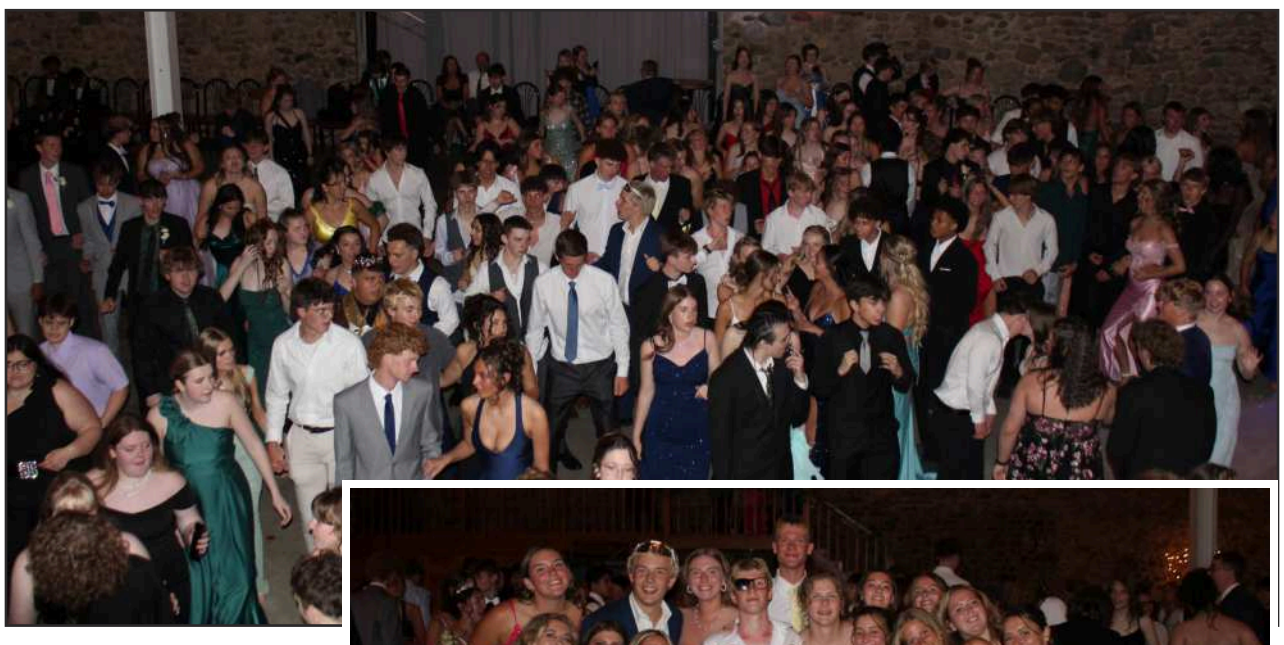


Regional champions

The Otsego track & field program has long been known for the strength of its distance events. This year was no different.

Senior Caleb Wesseldyk (above) and junior Emma Hoffman (below) each won regional championships in the 1,600 and the 3,200. Wesseldyk also anchored the winning 4x800 relay team, giving him three regional titles.

The Division 2 State Finals are scheduled for Saturday, May 31, at Hamilton High School.



Plainwell High School students enjoy themselves at this year's prom, which took place at The Old Winery in Lawton. The theme of the prom was "Hollywood Golden Age" and featured a red-carpet entrance for the students. (Photos provided)

PHS holds prom at The Old Winery

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

LAWTON—We've all seen footage of celebrities stopping to pose for photographers while walking the red carpet as they arrive at some big event or premier.

Plainwell High School students who attended the school's prom got the opportunity to have the experience, albeit on a slightly smaller scale.

As attendees arrived for prom at The Old Winery in Lawton, they were greeted with a red carpet that led to a big balloon arch. At the arch, students could pose for photos before entering the building.

The theme of the prom, according to Plainwell High School teacher Sarah Lawrence, was "Hollywood Golden Age Gala."

"The students really seemed to have a great time and were enjoying themselves," said Lawrence, who serves as junior class advisor at PHS and helped organize the prom.

The venue for the prom was selected after juniors who were on the prom committee visited several options.

"They really like The Old Winery because it has a great atmosphere," Lawrence said. "The students really liked that the venue includes two levels and has beautiful rock walls with high ceilings."

It was after selecting the venue that the theme was finalized.

"Students ended up choosing this theme because they felt that it worked really well with the atmosphere that the venue created," Lawrence said.

In addition to the red-carpet entrance, this year's PHS prom included a chocolate fountain with an assortment of options to dip in the chocolate. Charcuterie and popcorn were also provided.

In addition, there was an Italian soda station that seemed to be a big hit with students.

A Hollywood-themed photo booth that was filled with props for students to take pictures with was also available.

And, of course, there was music and dancing.

"The students had a good time dancing and just having fun," Lawrence said.

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and welcoming
Dr. Melinda Kelley

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SUMMARY

Otsego Township
May 12, 2025

The regular meeting of the Otsego Township Board was held on Monday, May 12, 2025, at the Otsego Township Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Winn.

Members Present: Winn, Colin, Lunarde-Alexander, Gudith, Moll, Burns, Bumgart.

Members Absent: None.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approved minutes from the April 14th regular meeting.

Approved bills in the amount of $89,987.37.

Tabled the Planning Commission Case 25-01, Boone Rezone, until June.

Adjourned the meeting at 8:19 P.M.

Submitted by: Jen Colin, Otsego Township Clerk

CITY OF PLAINWELL

ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION

PUBLIC NOTICE IS GIVEN that at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Plainwell held at City Hall on May 12, 2025, and beginning at 7:00pm, the City Council Adopted Ordinance No. 400 entitled:
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 53 "ZONING" OF THE CITY OF PLAINWELL CODE OF ORDINANCES; TO AMEND SEC. 53-175, A, 7 PERTAINING TO ONE AND TWO-FAMILY DWELLING RESIDENTIAL PARKING; AND TO AMEND SEC. 53-175, A, 8 PERTAINING TO SHARED PARKING.

CITY OF PLAINWELL, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, ORDAINS:
Section 1. Amendment of Sec. 53-175, A, 7. Sec. 53-175, A, 7 of Chapter 53, "Zoning" of the City of Plainwell Code of Ordinances is amended to read in its entirety as follows:
7. Specific parking requirements for one-family and two-family dwellings.
a. Required off-street parking for one-family and two-family dwellings shall be provided within a garage, carport, on a paved driveway, or as set forth in a recorded shared parking arrangement.
b. Off-street parking may be permitted in a required front yard or side yard, provided that the following standards are met:
1) Automobiles shall be parked on an approved paved surface which shall extend as a continuous paved surface to the street; and
2) Not more than fifty (50) percent of a required front or side yard shall be utilized as paved surface for the parking of automobiles.
c. Access to enclosed or unenclosed parking shall be provided by means of a driveway which shall extend as a continuous uninterrupted way from the parking apron or structure to a street or alley. Such driveway shall comply with the following standards:
1) The driveway and parking apron shall be paved with an approved hard surface, such as asphalt, concrete or other similar materials.
2) Driveways shall not be wider than eighteen (18) feet, or the front width of a parking enclosure, whichever is greater. All other driveways for one- and two-family dwellings may be up to eighteen (18) feet wide, provided however, one approved hard-surfaced driveway extension not more than nine (9) feet wide nor more than twenty (20) feet long may be placed along one side of the driveway and may extend beyond the front wall of the parking enclosure, if applicable, to a point no closer than one foot from an interior side or rear property line. A rolled curb may be required along the side or rear property line to prevent stormwater from entering adjacent properties. The length of the driveway taper for the extension shall not exceed six (6) feet.
3) The driveway extension shall be a physical extension of the driveway and shall be located at the far end of the driveway, furthest from the street right-of-way line.
4) The width of a driveway at the front or corner front yard property line shall not exceed eighteen (18) feet.
5) Driveway curb cuts shall be placed at least twenty-four (24) feet from an intersection measured from the edge of pavement.
d. A one-family dwelling may have two (2) curb cuts, provided the driveway is a continuous driveway, extending uninterrupted from curb cut to curb cut. A two-unit dwelling may have two (2) separate driveways and curb cuts.
Section 2. Amendment of Sec. 53-175, A, 8. Sec. 53-175, A, 8 of Chapter 53, "Zoning" of the City of Plainwell Code of Ordinances is amended to read in its entirety as follows:
8. Nothing in this article shall be construed to prevent the shared collective provision of off-street parking facilities for two (2) or more buildings or uses; provided, the facilities collectively shall not be less than the sum of the requirements for the various individual uses computed separately in accordance with the table. Shared parking areas may be located on a different lot from the building or use that it serves if the following conditions are met:
a. The parking area is located no more than three-hundred (300) feet from the nearest point of the subject building containing the use to the nearest point of the off-street parking lot.
b. The sharing of parking shall be guaranteed via a legally binding and recorded agreement between the owner of the parking area and the owner of the buildings or uses which is located on a different lot served by the parking area. Such agreement shall be submitted to the City for review and approval and address the issue of how parking will be shared, maintained, and be adequate if the parties modify operating hours or other factors. The Planning Commission may waive the requirement for a recorded agreement where it finds satisfactory alternative documentation of an assured long-term shared parking arrangement.
c. Shared access drives to separate parking areas may be utilized provided that appropriate shared access agreements and/or easements are provided and approved by the City.

Section 3. Severability and Captions. This Ordinance and the various parts, sections, subsections, sentences, phrases and clauses thereof are hereby declared severable. If any part, section, subsection, sentence, phrase, or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby. The captions included at the beginning of each Section are for convenience only and shall not be considered a part of this Ordinance.

Section 4. Repeal. Any existing ordinance or resolution that is inconsistent or conflicts with this Ordinance is hereby repealed to the extent of any such conflict or inconsistency.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Ordinance is ordered to take effect eight (8) days following publication of adoption in The Union Enterprise, a newspaper having general circulation in the City, under the provisions of 2006 Public Act 110, except as may be extended under the provisions of such Act.

Military service forges indelible friendships

By Gari Voss & Larry Massey

As Memorial Day 2025 approaches, those who served together in the military either in the country or abroad might get out a photo album or just run the images through their minds. Stories spring forth of crazy antics, places visited, hair raising experiences, or conversations shared with military friends. These memories keep military friends alive and near to the hearts of comrades.

When those who served in the armed forces reflect back on their time in the service, their memories often go not to places but to people. The friendships hewn during months and/or years in close proximity and striving for a common goal leave an indelible mark on the soul and heart.

Larry Massey took a moment to scribe a memory of an army buddy. A friendship begun while being stationed together. The personal narrative received second place in the National Veterans Creative Arts Competition that encourages veterans to share their stories.

Friendships forged in the military often last a lifetime. Larry Massie, on right, and a paratrooper buddy prepare for a jump with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C. in 1967. Photo: L. Massey

ARMY BUDDIES
By Larry Massey

Buddies: special friendships forged during military service that can last a lifetime.

So, there we were. My Army buddy, Dan Carroll, and I sitting side by side in an old blue four-door Ford with the rear end teetering over a three-hundred foot chasm. Below, an array of smashed vehicles, some charred beyond recognition, lay on the rocks. Fearing that the slightest redistribution of weight would send us plummeting into the abyss, we each, ever so slowly, reached for the door handles. It was the summer of 1968, and we were in the Sierra Madre Oriental Mountains of Mexico.

Dan and I had become friends while serving in the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg. We had both been to "Nam," got hurt there and, mostly mended, joined the 82nd. Dan was assigned to a different battery than I was, but housed in the same barracks. He hated his NCO, called him a "bandy-legged, bone-headed, blow-hard witling." But he liked my NCO, a native North Carolinian who excelled at sarcastic comments during our daily "poop call." So, Dan hung around the periphery and enjoyed the fun.

Of Irish descent, Dan had certainly "kissed the Blarney Stone." But one night, after a couple of hours of "honkytonking" in a cluster of nearby Fayetteville taverns known as "Combat Alley," three thugs who didn't appreciate Dan's shenanigans jumped us. I, who had been fist-fighting since grade school, took on two of them. Dan, unluckily, got the one with a Buck knife. All of a sudden, I was fighting three. I went down. But before the punishment began, inexplicably all three ran.

I jumped up and saw why. There lay Dan on his back, blue eyes wide, and belly bubbling with blood. I ran out into the traffic, stopped cars and got Dan to a hospital. After a month or so, he returned to active duty with his Irish malarkey intact.

That event heightened our friendship. We made a pact that when he got discharged, eight months after me, we would go to Mexico where we had heard you could buy opals for a fraction of their value in the USA. We planned to make our fortune.

After his discharge, I quit my crappy paper-mill job and met Dan in Washington D.C. where his mother lived. We entered Mexico at Nuevo Laredo, and traveling south, found ourselves in the mountains. Following narrow twisting roads without guardrails, we marveled at the number of crashed cars below the curves. One side of a peak would be in sunshine, the other side in fog or rain, and Mexican pavement, we would learn, when wet, was extremely slick.

As we rounded a damp curve, I braked to avoid a truck, missed it, but skidded, spun around twice, and the old Ford came to rest hanging over a shoulder that went straight down.

After we carefully opened the doors, I calmly said, "On the count of three, we'll jump and roll." I never got to three, however. When I said two, we both yelled "Airborne" and bailed.

As it turned out, the car was securely balanced on its frame. A passing policeman arrived, solemnly accepted his bribe, summoned a tow truck, and away we went. Little did we know, but the brake line had been damaged during the incident, and we soon found ourselves barreling down a hill with no brakes. Luckily, we made it into a sandy off-shoot prepared for such eventualities, and with the help of the emergency brake, slowly limped to a nearby village with a repair shop.

The following two weeks, we meandered over much of Mexico with plenty of other adventures but saw nary an opal.

That Mexican expedition further cemented our lifelong friendship. I journeyed to his lair in Great Falls, Montana, where an encounter with an angry grizzly nearly ended that friendship. Dan visited Michigan several times, and he and my wife, Priscilla, also of Irish descent, became good friends, as well.

Then one evening, out of the blue, Dan 's mother called to tell us he was seriously ill in an Erie, Pennsylvania V.A. Hospital. It seems the effects of the wounds in Vietnam and stabbing in Fayetteville had come back to haunt him. Priscilla and I arrived in Erie the next day. I could hardly recognize the emaciated patient. Dan's nurse told us that he would not accept food and was growing weaker because of that. He allowed me to spoon feed him some yogurt.

Then I leaned over and whispered in his ear, "There's something I've been wanting to say for about 30 years."

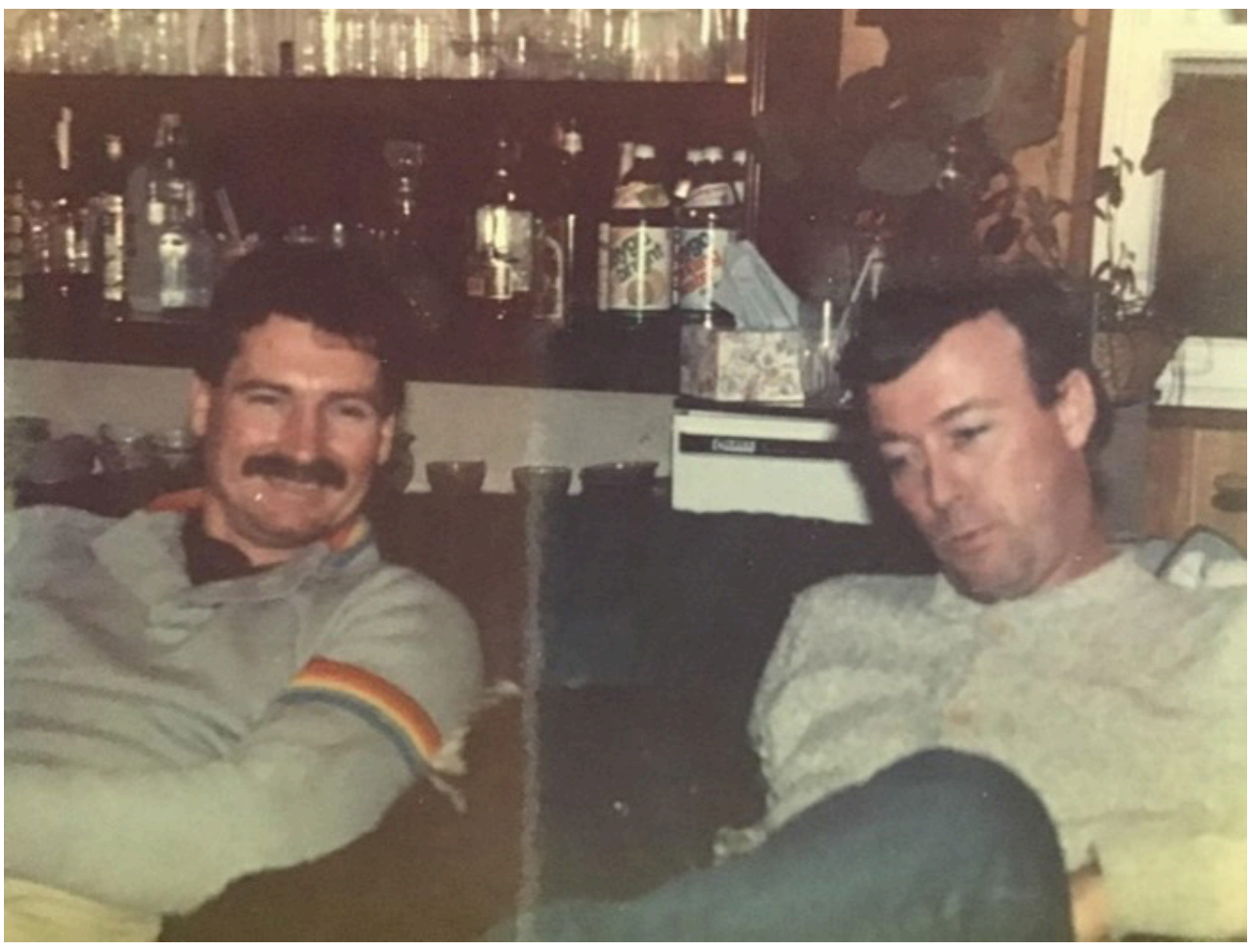
"What?" he croaked.

"Three," I said.

He chuckled and smiled. "About time," he said.

We left, promising to return in the morning. When we did, the nurse told us Dan had passed peacefully shortly after we left.

Fourteen months later, when Priscilla delivered our first child, we named her Maureen Danielle in honor of the Army buddy who will always live in my memory.



Friends for life began with military service. Massie on left and Army buddy Dan Carroll enjoy a visit to Larry's & Priscilla's Allegan Forest home, ca. 1990. Photo: P. Massey

Public Notice

Gun Plain Charter Township
Zoning Board of Appeals

To: the residents and property owners of the Charter Township of Gun Plain, Allegan County, Michigan and any other interested persons.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Gun Plain Charter Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on Tuesday June 10, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. at the Gun Plain Charter Township Hall, 381 8th St., Plainwell, Michigan for the purpose of taking comments pertaining to the request of Dylan Steele, Doster Road, Plainwell, Michigan 49080 for a variance for a 2 foot side yard and 22 foot front yard setback. Parcel #03-08-012-002-00.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that written comments will be received from any interested person at the Township Office, 381 8th St., P.O. Box 146, Plainwell, Michigan 49080, up to and including the date of the public hearing and may also be submitted to the Zoning Board of Appeals at the public hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that Gun Plain Charter Township will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the hearing to individuals with disabilities upon seven (7) days written notice to the Township Clerk at 381 8th St., P.O. Box 146, Plainwell, Michigan 49080 or by phone 269-685-9471 or fax 269-685-5169.

GUN PLAIN CHARTER TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD of APPEALS
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Plainwell, Michigan 49080
Phone 269-685-9471 or Fax 269-685-5169

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• FRIDAY: 11A-5P
• SATURDAY: 10A-2P
• SUNDAY: CLOSED
141 BRADY ST, ALLEGAN
269.355.1011

Living History Tour set for May 30,31

By Gari Voss

The 12th Annual Living History Cemetery Tour at Oakwood Cemetery in Allegan, MI always brings surprises. Audiences never know who will pop out to share their story. Amanda Strickfaden keeps them all under wraps, though she will send out a bit of a clue at times.

"Don't miss the chance to see Allegan lore and legend brought to life with first person portrayals of those who now rest in the park like setting of Oakwood Cemetery," explained the Friends of Oakwood Cemetery who sponsor the event.

Visitors on Friday, May 30 and Saturday, May 31, 2025, will meet characters who helped form the Allegan community. Actors bring the personalities to life and fill in valuable bits of history.

"The money raised thru ticket sales is used to purchase supplies to clean and repair headstones of those who no longer have family to tend to the maintenance," shared organizers.

Tickets can be purchased at the Allegan City Hall. Tours depart from the chapel every half hour, and that time will be printed on the ticket.

The tour will last approximately one hour, so wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring an umbrella if it looks like rain. Tours will be given whether rain or shine. For those with mobility concerns, golf carts are provided.

Monterey planners turn down latest DG site plan

The planning process to build a new Dollar General in Allegan County has hit a new roadblock.

Dozens of residents have taken to planning commission meetings in Monterey Township to campaign against a proposed Dollar General. Two representatives of Dollar General presented a plan to build on a property at 30th Street and 125th Avenue at a Monday, May 12 township meeting.

The Monterey Township Planning Commission voted unanimously against the site plan.

Scott Boeve, chair of the commission, cited the lack of inclusion of a propane tank and lack of space for unloading semitrucks as reasons for the rejection.

There's still a path for the Dollar General to be built at the site, however.

Dollar General can present the same site plan to the Monterey Township Board of Trustees for consideration, said Jason Derry, the township's zoning administrator. The plan will go before the board in three weeks, Boeve said.

Some of the issues from the original plan had been resolved in the new site plan, but the commission could only vote on the official plan submitted, Boeve said.

Dollar General could submit its newer site plan for official reconsideration by the planning commission, Derry said.

Allegan County CARES responds to weather related damage

By Gari Voss

Residents across Allegan County are beginning to "dig out" after the storms that struck the county on May 15, 2025, and continued into May 16th. Consumers Energy sent out about 500 teams to remove objects from wires and restore outages. But that does not cover the extensive damage to property.

Thanks to the efforts of the Allegan County Community Foundation(ACCF), a disaster relief fund exists. To assist residents, ACCF President/CEO Stephanie Calhoun released the following explaining how neighbors can assist neighbors by donating to the fund:

On May 15, 2025, a strong storm impacted many residents and neighborhoods across Allegan County. In response, the Allegan County Community Foundation's Disaster Response Fund — also known as Allegan County Cares — has been activated to support both immediate and long-term recovery needs.

We're reaching out to ask for your help.

Your donation to Allegan County Cares will provide financial resources to assist those negatively impacted by the storm. Funds will be used to support local nonprofits, agencies, and community partners as they help residents with shelter, repairs, and other essential needs.

Recovery takes time and every contribution helps. Together, we can ensure that our community has the support it needs to move forward.

Thank you for caring for your neighbors.

To make a donation, go to https://www.care4ac.org/ to assist in meeting the needs of Allegan County neighbors.

Motorcyclist dies in Hopkins crash

On May 16th around 2:56pm, Allegan County Central Dispatch received a call for a serious traffic crash at 18th St and 135th Ave in Hopkins Township. Preliminary investigation shows a south bound motorcycle on 18th St failed to stop at a signed four-way intersection while an SUV was making a north bound turn onto 18th St after making a complete stop from traveling east bound from 135th Ave.

The operator of the motorcycle was pronounced deceased on scene after life saving measures were attempted. . The names and information of all involved parties are being withheld at this time as the crash remains under investigation.

Spring is here!

With it comes fleas, ticks, and mosquitoes. Let us help you keep your pets safe:

- Test for Heartworm, Lyme, and other tick borne diseases yearly.
- Vaccinate against Lyme and Leptospirosis yearly.
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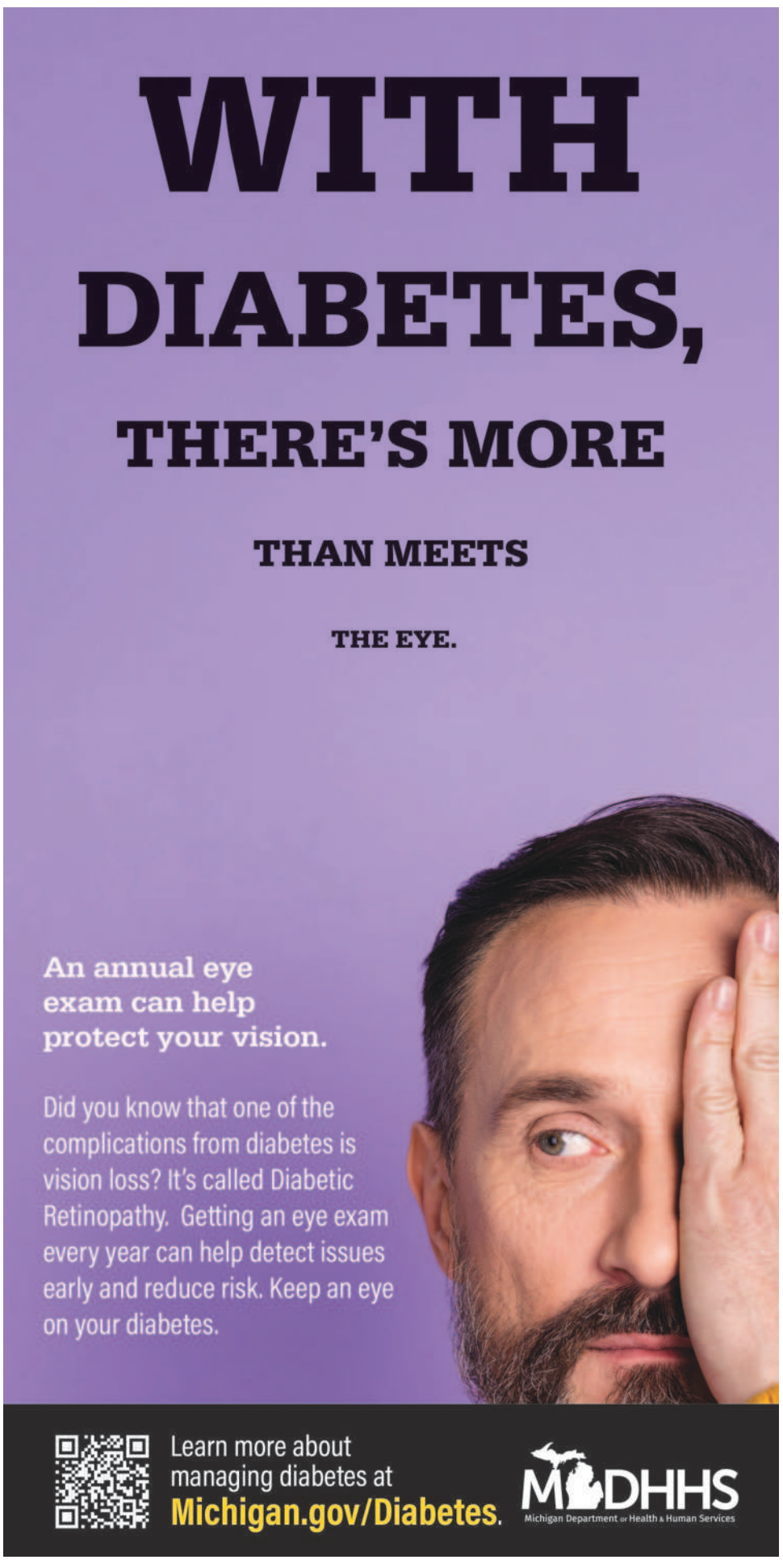

Fennville High School to Honor Command Sergeant Major Leo H. Banaszak IV as 2025 Distinguished Alumni

Fennville Public Schools is proud to announce that Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Leo H. Banaszak IV, a 2001 graduate of Fennville High School, has been named the 2025 recipient of the FHS Distinguished Alumni Award.

CSM Banaszak will also deliver the keynote address at the Fennville High School Graduation on Thursday, May 22. CSM Banaszak has built an extraordinary 24-year career in the U.S. Army, demonstrating unwavering dedication, leadership, and excellence. Currently serving as the Battalion Command Sergeant Major of the 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, he has earned numerous accolades, including the Bronze Star and the Army Commendation Medal with Valor, for his bravery in combat.

His leadership played a critical role in the successful capture of 35 insurgents during deployment. Throughout his service, CSM Banaszak has completed five years of combat deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. His career has taken him across multiple duty stations, and he has also pursued higher education, earning a Master of Science in Management from Excelsior University while balancing the demands of military service.

The FHS Distinguished Alumni Program recognizes truly outstanding graduates to inspire excellence at Fennville Public Schools. This honor is awarded to individuals who have demonstrated true excellence through an achievement, a series of achievements, or an exceptional career. Recognition as a Distinguished Alumnus is the highest honor Fennville Public Schools bestows upon a graduate.

Fennville Public Schools invites the community to join in celebrating CSM Banaszak's achievements at the 2025 Fennville High School Graduation Ceremony. Graduation takes place at George Bruder Memorial Field on the campus of Fennville Public Schools on Thursday, May 22 at 7:30pm.

Glow Disc Golf raises funds for Congregational Kitchen

By Gari Voss

Since October 5, 2006, the Congregational Kitchen has met the needs of individuals and families who desire a well-balanced meal once a week. The kitchen added a warehouse where they could take in food not only for their program but for other food pantries and kitchens in the area. Even though the kitchen has been able to receive some grant support, the free meals do not happen without additional funding.

In order to obtain the needed dollars, the Kitchen staff have offered meals to the public as fundraisers. These have helped, but the Congregational Kitchen Board felt it would be fun to find other ways to earn money. Enter the Glow Disc Golf Course at the First Baptist Church on M-40.

On Friday, May 23, 2025, the Congregational Kitchen will host its first Disc Golf at Night fundraiser at the First Baptist Church (FBC), 1290 32nd St, Allegan, beginning at 8:30pm. This is a wonderful partnership. Individuals, small groups and families are invited to come and play.

If participants do not have their own glow in the dark disc, FBC will provide it. If disc golf is new, assistance will be given on how to throw the disc and score the round.

There is no set fee to play. Congregational Kitchen Director Carrie Lovett shared that there will be a sign saying that $12 feeds a family of 4, but there is not pressure to donate that amount. Anyone who decides to donate needs to know that the amount will go directly into the Kitchen's account to provide free meals to others.

Lovett would like to give a special thank you to Keith at FBC and to the Tech Center Graphic Arts Department. Before summer break, the Arts Department will be making yard signs to remind residents and visitors that Glow Disc Golf will be available at the Baptist Church.

The next fundraising night will be June 27, 2025, beginning at 8:30pm. For additional information, contact Keith at (269) 673-5683.

THE TOWNSHIP OF SALEM

FRANCHISE GRANTED TO
SEMCO Energy Gas Company
Ordinance No. 05/13/2025

THE TOWNSHIP OF SALEM FRANCHISE GRANTED TO
SEMCO Energy Gas Company Ordinance No. 05/13/2025

An Ordinance, granting to SEMCO Energy Gas Company, a Michigan corporation, its successors and assigns, the right, power and authority to lay, maintain and operate gas mains, pipes and services on, along, across and under the highways, streets, alleys, bridges, waterways, and other public places, and to conduct a local gas business in the Township of Salem, located in Allegan County, Michigan, for a period of thirty years.

THE TOWNSHIP OF SALEM ORDAINS:

Section 1. GRANT OF FRANCHISE. The Township of Salem, located in Allegan County, Michigan (the "Township"), hereby grants to SEMCO Energy Gas Company, a division of SEMCO Energy, Inc., a Michigan corporation, its successors and assigns, (the "Grantee") the right, power and authority to construct, lay, operate, maintain and replace in the public streets, highways, alleys and other public places in the Township of Salem, Michigan, all needful and proper gas pipes, mains, conductors, service pipes and other apparatus and facilities requisite for the manufacture, transmission and distribution of gas for all purposes to the Township of Salem, and the inhabitants thereof, and for conducting gas elsewhere to supply neighboring cities, villages and other territories supplied with gas by said Grantee, for a period of ten (10) years.

Section 2. CONSIDERATION. In consideration of the rights, power and authority hereby granted, Grantee shall faithfully perform all things required by the terms hereof.

Section 3. CONDITIONS. No highway, street, alley, bridge or other public place used by Grantee shall be obstructed longer than necessary during the work of construction or repair, and shall be restored to as good order and condition as when Grantee commenced the work. All of Grantee's pipes and mains shall be so placed in the highways and other public places as not to unnecessarily interfere with the use thereof for highway purposes. Grantee will use its best efforts to not unreasonably interfere with or disrupt any public utility apparatus or facilities operated by the Township and, to the extent Grantee interferes with or disrupts any such public utility apparatus or facilities, Grantee shall restore such apparatus or facilities to as good order and condition as when Grantee commenced work.

Section 4. HOLD HARMLESS. Grantee shall at all times keep and save the Township, its employees and agents free and harmless from any loss, damage and expense of any kind on account of the Grantee laying, constructing, maintaining, and using mains, pipes, conduits and other appurtenances. Grantee's laying, constructing, maintaining, and/or use of said mains, pipes, conduits and other appurtenances, Grantee shall, upon notice, defend the Township, and its employees and agents, and save it free and harmless from all loss, cost and damage arising out of the Grantee's activities in laying, constructing, maintaining, and/or using said mains, pipes, conduits and other appurtenances. However, Grantee need not save Township harmless from claims, losses and expenses arising out of the gross negligence of the Township, its employees or agents.

Section 5. FRANCHISE NOT EXCLUSIVE. The rights, power and authority herein granted, are not exclusive. Either manufactured or natural gas may be furnished hereunder.

Section 6. RATES. Grantee shall charge for gas furnished the rates, charges and special taxes as approved from time to time by the Michigan Public Service Commission, or its successors having authority and jurisdiction to fix and regulate gas rates and charges, or as otherwise permitted or required by applicable law or tariff, for the term of this franchise. Such rates shall be subject to Commission review and change at any time upon petition therefore being made by either said Township, acting by its Township Board, or by said Grantee.

Section 7. REVOCATION. The franchise granted by this ordinance is subject to revocation upon sixty (60) days written notice by the party desiring such revocation.

Section 8. MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION JURISDICTION.
Grantee shall, as to all other conditions and elements of service not herein fixed, be and remain subject to the reasonable rules and regulations of the Michigan Public Service Commission or its successors, applicable to gas service in said Township and shall provide service in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in its applicable tariff as approved from time to time by the Michigan Public Service Commission or its successors.

Section 9. SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS. The words "SEMCO Energy Gas Company" and "SEMCO Energy, Inc.," wherever used herein, are intended and shall be held and construed to mean and include SEMCO Energy Gas Company and its parent, subsidiaries, successors, affiliates, and assigns, whether so expressed or not. The word "Grantee," wherever used herein, is intended and shall be held and construed to mean and include SEMCO Energy Gas Company, SEMCO Energy, Inc., and the successors and assigns of each, whether so expressed or not. Grantee may assign the rights and obligations under this agreement as long as the Grantee provides prior written notice to the Township of any such assignment.

Section 10. FORCE MAJEURE. The Grantee shall not be liable for failure to furnish service as herein provided, or for any breach of the Grantee's obligations hereunder, if such failure or breach is caused by acts of God, labor troubles, riot, or any other causes or contingencies not reasonably within the control of the Grantee.

Section 11. VACATION OR RELOCATION. The Township may require the Grantee to vacate or relocate any portion of Grantee's facilities at the Grantee's expense if such vacation or relocation is necessary to secure the public health and welfare or is otherwise required by Grantor in the exercise of a governmental function.

Section 12. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS. Grantee shall comply with all laws, statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations regarding the installation, construction, ownership or use of its facilities, whether federal, state, or local. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed as a waiver of governmental immunity afforded to the Township by law.

Section 13. EFFECTIVE DATE. Upon adoption, the Township Clerk shall deliver to Grantee a certified copy of this ordinance. Additionally, the Township shall publish this ordinance within thirty (30) days of its adoption and this ordinance shall take effect upon the day after the date of publication thereof, continuing for a term of ten (10) years from that date; provided, however, it shall cease and be of no effect after sixty (60) days from its adoption unless within said period the Grantee shall accept the same in writing filed with the Township Clerk.

Upon acceptance and publication hereof, the ordinance shall constitute a contract between said Township and said Grantee.

Ayes:4 Nays:0 Date Passed:05/13/2025

Attested, by Order of the Township of Salem, Allegan County, Michigan

Renee Busscher
Salem Township Clerk

Jim Pitsch
Salem Township Supervisor

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, being the duly qualified and acting Clerk of Salem Township, Allegan County, Michigan, hereby certifies that: (1) the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Township Board at a regular meeting held on the 13th day of May 2025, at which meeting a quorum was present and remained throughout,
(2) the original thereof is on file in the records in my office, (3) the meeting was conducted, and public notice thereof was given, pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act (Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended) and, (4) minutes of such meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required thereby.

Dated: May 13, 2025
Renee Busscher
Salem Township Clerk

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Evan Arthur Atwood
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Carter Ryan Austin
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Allegan hospital food service to lay off staff

A food service company is laying off almost 250 employees as an Indiana health system acquires Ascension Michigan's southwest region.

Contracts that Compass Group USA, Inc. has with Ascension Borgess at four hospitals and a health and fitness center are set to be terminated early, according to Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notifications it filed earlier this month.

A total of 244 employees will be laid off on July 1, the notice says. Those employees include dietitians, cooks, dishwashers and housekeepers. The majority — about 200 — work at Ascension Borgess Hospital in Kalamazoo. The rest work at Ascension Borgess' hospitals in Allegan, Plainwell and Dowagiac, along with the Ascension Borgess Health & Fitness Center in Kalamazoo.

In April, Indiana-based Beacon Health System announced it was acquiring the four hospitals and dozens of clinics. Compass Group said it anticipates Beacon will offer the laid-off employees jobs; If Beacon doesn't, it will work to find impacted employers other opportunities within its company.

Faces in the Crowd

By G C Stoppel

This year we observe Memorial Day on Monday the 26th of May. This week's question: What does Memorial Day mean to you?

-Couple near the Fennville hardware store: Man: "You kidding me? It's big, real big. It's one of the most important things we can do - remembering those who gave their lives for this country!" Woman: "We go to the parade and stay through the speech, and go out to the cemetery, too, not like some people I could mention who don't bother with that!"

-Several men near the Blue Goose: "We're all vets. Those two are Marines; I'm Army. We all used to march in the parade, but none of us are up to that anymore. But we'll be there. We were just talking. If we don't go to the parade to remember those who died, maybe no one will go to it after we're gone."

-One of the men with him, "Yup, Paying it forward, like they say."

-Young couple near the Fennville grocery store: Man: "My folks want me to go, but we'll see." Woman: "Would it be any different if I asked you? You'd go then, I'll bet. So, you ought to go."

-Man near the Allegan Public Library: "Well, I usually go, but it depends on the weather, I guess."

-Man near the old jail museum: "I wouldn't feel right if I didn't go. Those guys gave their lives, so I always do what I can to remember them. I had a neighbor whose older brother was killed on that Bataan Death March. That's one reason I go." Turns to leave, then turns around. "I'd rather go to a parade and service here in town that watch some sort of big victory parade next month, even if it is on TV."

-Woman near the Allegan Post Office. "We've got a routine. After church and lunch on Mother's Day we go to the cemetery to decorate the family graves. And we go out every week all summer to water them. The flowers, I mean."

-Man, same location: "Yeah, I'm big on patriotism, so we'll go. My boys were Scouts and they helped put flags on all the graves, and I made them go to the parade with me, and in uniform."

-Older man near the Regent Theater: "It's still rough on me when I go to the parade and ceremony. I classmate of mine was killed in Hue, and it's stuck with me all these years. I was just thinking about him."

-Woman near the Huntington Bank: "Yes, I'm going. I get teary-eyed and a lump in my throat when the fellow plays "Taps," I'm going because it makes me so mad that the President and Musk and the rest of his rich-boy pals want to cut spending on the VA hospitals. I hate him because of what he's doing to them."

-Young man, same location, "Probably not. It's a day off from work so I think I'll try to sleep in. Anyway, it's the same thing every year.

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Hillside Learning Center celebrates MOVE site dedication

On Wednesday, May 15, Hillside Learning Center hosted a heartfelt dedication ceremony to celebrate its designation as an Exemplar School by MOVE (Mobility Opportunities Via Education) International. The event took place under the bus awning at Hillside, where students, staff, families, and community members gathered to honor the life-changing impact of the MOVE program.

Students using a variety of mobility equipment, including gait trainers and standers, proudly participated in the celebration — a visible and moving reminder of the freedom and confidence the program promotes.

The event recognized Hillside's five-year journey with MOVE International, a curriculum designed to increase independent mobility for students with significant physical disabilities. In October, Hillside was evaluated for its implementation of MOVE and was officially designated as an Exemplar School in November.

"This celebration was a beautiful reflection of what's possible when we lead with inclusion and high expectations," said Superintendent William Brown of Allegan Area ESA. "It was especially meaningful to see students in motion — smiling, engaging, and fully part of the moment. That's what MOVE is all about."

The dedication ceremony featured remarks from school leaders, a personal story from Superintendent Brown, and expressions of gratitude from families and staff.

CITY OF ALLEGAN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR MICHIGAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDING FOR THE ROSSMAN PARK AREA IMPROVEMENTS

The City of Allegan will conduct a public hearing on May 27, 2025 at 6:00PM at Allegan City Hall Council Chambers, for the purpose of affording citizens an opportunity to examine and submit comments on the proposed application for a CDBG grant.

The City of Allegan proposes to request $2,500,000 in CDBG funds to replace water main and sanitary sewer in the "Rossman Park" areas, which include Bond Street, Herkimer Street, Kalamazoo Street, Wayne Street, 4th Street, 5th Street, and Division Street. Sanitary sewer lining will also occur on Bond Street, Herkimer Street and 6th Street. Any lead service water lines in the project limits will be replaced as part of the project. As a non-grant participating cost, road reconstruction will occur on sections of streets without underground utilities on 4th Street, 5th Street, Division Street and Oak Court to address the area comprehensively. In addition to CDBG funds, matching costs of $7,091,901 will be paid through the city's water, sewer and streets funds. The entire project total of $9,591,901 will benefit at least 63.1% low to moderate income persons in the city. No persons will be displaced as a result of the proposed activities.

Further information, including a copy of the City of Allegan's Community Development Plan and CDBG application, is available for review. To inspect the documents, please contact Joel Dye (jdye@cityofallegan.org) or review at Allegan City Hall. Comments may be submitted in writing through Monday, May 27, 2025 by 5:00PM, or made in person at the public hearing.

Citizen views and comments on the proposed application are welcome.

City of Allegan
Joel Dye, City Manager
269.895.2031
jdye@cityofallegan.org

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Fired employees appeal against law firm denied

A Michigan Court of Appeals has affirmed a lower court's decision to dismiss a lawsuit filed by Nevin Cooper-Keel against his former employer, attorney Robert J. Baker and his firm, RJ Baker & Associates, PLLC. Cooper-Keel had sued for intentional infliction of emotional distress (IIED) and injurious falsehood following statements Baker made during Cooper-Keel's character-and-fitness investigation for admission to the State Bar of Michigan.

Case Summary

Nevin Cooper-Keel, a 2014 law school graduate who has not been admitted to the State Bar of Michigan, worked as a paralegal for RJ Baker & Associates from June 2015 to February 2016. He was fired in January 2016, with Baker citing dissatisfaction with his work performance. Cooper-Keel believed the dismissal was due to a colleague's jealousy.

In December 2020, when Cooper-Keel sought admission to the state bar, a representative contacted his former employers as part of the character-and-fitness investigation. Baker informed the representative that Cooper-Keel's "work product was not up to the firm's standards," which was the reason for his discharge. Cooper-Keel alleged these statements were false, defamatory, and caused him emotional distress, leading him to file suit.

The Decision

The Court of Appeals upheld the trial court's grant of summary disposition in favor of the defendants. The core of the decision rested on SBM Rule 15, which provides absolute immunity from lawsuits for statements and communications made solely to State Bar staff during a character-and-fitness investigation.

The appellate court reasoned that this immunity shields individuals, like Baker, from tort liability for such statements, even if those statements are alleged to be false, as long as they are provided within the scope of the investigation. The court found that the statements made by Baker fell under this protection.

Initially, Cooper-Keel's lawsuit also included claims for defamation and violation of the Whistleblowers' Protection Act, but he conceded these were barred by the statute of limitations.

Grounds for the Appeal

Cooper-Keel appealed the trial court's dismissal of his remaining claims (IIED and injurious falsehood) based on the following arguments:

Absolute Immunity and False Statements: He contended that SBM Rule 15 should not grant absolute immunity for statements that are false, arguing that immunity does not extend to protect perjury.

Causation as a Jury Question: Cooper-Keel argued that the question of whether Baker's statements directly caused his failure to be admitted to the State Bar was a matter of fact that should have been decided by a jury, not dismissed via summary disposition.

The Court of Appeals disagreed with these arguments, ultimately affirming the trial court's decision based on the defendants' absolute immunity under SBM Rule 15. The court also declined the defendants' request to sanction Cooper-Keel for filing a vexatious appeal, stating that such a request must be filed as a separate motion.

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NOTICE

OF PUBLIC HEARING
City of Allegan Property Sale

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of Allegan, Michigan, shall on June 9, 2025, at 6:00 PM, at the City Council Chambers, Allegan City Hall 231 Trowbridge Street, Allegan, Michigan, hold a public hearing for the purpose of considering the sale of real property south of Babylon Street and east of 32nd Street, which has been assigned Tax I.D. Numbers 51-235-004-00 and 51-200-016-00 and is commonly known as the former Girl Scout Camp property.

At that time and place, the City Council shall hear and consider comments, concerns, statements, information, or other communications concerning the proposed property sale. Please send all written comments to the address listed below.

Carol Canales, Deputy Clerk City of Allegan
231 Trowbridge Street
Allegan MI 49010
(269) 673-5511

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City of Fennville

Allegan County, Michigan
Notice of Intent to Hold a Public Hearing

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Fennville Planning Commission shall meet at 6:30 p.m. local time at Fennville City Hall, 125 S. Maple St. Fennville, Michigan on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, to afford the public an opportunity to be heard with regard to proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

The proposed text amendments are as follows:

A. Article 7, Section 7.6, Part A
Change "Rear Yard 20 ft" to "Rear Yard 10 ft"
Change "Side Yards 8 feet (each)" to "Side Yards 5 feet (each)"
Change "Minimum lot width 50 ft" to "Minimum lot width 30 ft"

B. Article 8, Section 8.6, Part A
Change "Rear Yards 20 ft" to "Rear Yards 10 ft"
Change "Minimum lot width 50 ft" to "Minimum lot width 30 ft"

C. Article 12, Section 12.6, Part A
Change "Minimum lot width 50 ft" to "Minimum lot width 30 ft."

If these changes are acceptable, then Article 6, Section 6.2 - Schedule of Regulations will need to be amended to read:

a) R-1 – Minimum Lot Width – "30 feet" and Minimum Rear Yard Setback "10 ft".
b) R-2 – Minimum Lot Width – "30 feet" and Minimum Rear Yard Setback "10 ft".
c) B-1 – Minimum Lot Width – "30 feet."

D. Article 3, Section 13.2, part S
For Setback - Add
"1. The minimum front yard setback in the R-1, R-2, and B-1 zoning districts shall be consistent with the front yard setbacks of properties within 200 feet of the subject property or 15 feet, whichever is less."

E. Article 5. General Provisions - Add
Section 5.13 Manufactured Homes
A. Manufactured homes may be approved by the Zoning Administrator and shall comply with the following requirements:
1) The minimum size of a manufactured home shall be 720 square feet first floor living area. No manufactured home shall be placed on property with any side less than 12 feet in width.
2) Any manufactured home placed on property within the city shall not be older than 15 years of age within the current year.
3) Manufactured homes shall not be used as storage structures.

Written documents may be submitted to the Clerk at 125 South Street, Fennville, MI 49408 up to the date of the hearing and may also be submitted at the hearing.

Anyone interested in reviewing the text amendments may examine a copy at City Hall by contacting the Clerk 269-561-8321 during normal business hours.

Necessary and reasonable aids for disabled persons will made available with sufficient notice to the clerk.

The City of Fennville Planning Commission and City Commission reserve the right to make changes in the above mentioned proposed ordinance at or following the public hearing.

C SECTION

The Allegan County News & Union Enterprise

SPORTS

First Place 2012 NNA Better Newspaper Contest Award-winning Newspaper Best Sports Column

Thursday, May 22, 2025

Allegan claims Division 4 regional championship

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

At the Division 4 girls tennis regional hosted by Allegan on Thursday, May 15, four of the nine teams scored at least 18 points.

But none scored more than the Tigers.

With each of the eight flights contributing at least two points, Allegan finished with 25 points to win the regional championship and punch its ticket to the State Finals at the Midland Tennis Center beginning Friday, May 30.

The Allegan girls tennis team was all smiles after winning a Division 4 regional championship. (Photo provided)

"From the outset of the season, our girls demonstrated their potential with a tough schedule and even tougher practices," Allegan coach Damien Arthur said. "As the season progressed, they continued to grow, with each player contributing to the team's success."

The Tigers, who are competing in Division 4 for the first time in program history, are returning to the State Finals following a one-year hiatus. Allegan placed fourth in a Division 3 regional last year.

"These girls displayed grit, determination and outstanding teamwork to capture the regional championship this season," Arthur said. "Despite being a young squad, the team's hard work and relentless pursuit of improvement throughout the year paid off."

As she's done throughout the season, No. 1 singles Addy Fales led the charge for Allegan.

Not only did Fales win all three of her matches to win the flight title, but she did so without dropping a single set and losing just six total games.

"Addy was a standout performer for us," Arthur said. "Her dominance at the top of the lineup was a crucial factor in our triumph, providing the team with a solid foundation."

The Tigers also excelled in doubles.

Allegan advanced to the finals in all four doubles flights, winning three of them and finishing second in the other.

"Our doubles teams showcased their strength," Arthur said. "The team's depth in doubles proved to be a major advantage, with consistent performances across the board leading to crucial points that helped seal the win."

No. 1 doubles Taylor Fuller/Hanna Kievit won their flight title, as did No. 2 Ireland Dewey/Madison Cook and Lilli Kelley/Shy Thompson.

No. 3 doubles Sophie Augustine/Emma Scheffler made it to the finals before dropping a hard-fought 7-6 (5), 6-3 decision to Buchanan.

No. 2 singles Judith Ducourau, No. 3 singles Kendall Halstead and No. 4 singles Serenity Puente each won one match following opening-round byes.

"This championship is a testament to our girls' relentless dedication and team spirit," Arthur said. "Their hard work and perseverance over the course of the season have set the stage for even greater achievements in the future."

Otsego's Hoffman, Allegan's VandenAkker win two regional titles

Otsego junior Emma Hoffman stayed unbeaten in the 1,600 and 3,200 by winning both races at regionals. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

BERRIEN SPRINGS—Otsego's Emma Hoffman entered the Division 2 regional meet at Berrien Springs undefeated in the 1,600-meter-run and the 3,200-meter run.

She left the meet with that unblemished record intact.

Posting a time of 4:45.72 in the 1,600 and 10:51.74 in the 3,200, Hoffman easily won both events and will head to the State Finals as the top seed in each of them.

Hoffman's strong performance helped lift Otsego to a fifth-place showing in the team standings with 52 points. Plainwell was seventh with 36 points, while Allegan was 11th with 26 points.

As has been the case throughout the season, Hoffman didn't just win. She dominated.

Her time in the 1,600 was nearly 18 seconds better than runner-up Kaylee Sprague of Stevensville-Lakeshore, while her time in the 3,200 was nearly a full minute—58.42 seconds, to be exact—better than Plainwell's Mai Nguyen, who placed second.

"Emma has worked unbelievably hard to put herself in a position to win a pair of state titles and has met every challenge so far this season," Otsego coach Justin Scott said. "I am excited for her to have an opportunity to push herself even farther than she has thus far and I think we may see some historic times in the next two weeks."

Also dominant was Allegan hurdling specialist Jayden VandenAkker.

After winning the 100 hurdles with a time of 15.95, VandenAkker won the 300 hurdles at 45.81.

"Jayden dominated both her races and looked really strong," Allegan coach Mike Chalupa said. "It was great to see her in the shape she is, as she worked through some mid-season injury issues. She seems to be right on track to run fast and be competitive (at the State Finals) in Hamilton on May 31."

Plainwell's Jadyn Erdody joined Hoffman and VandenAkker in qualifying for the State Finals in two events.

Erdody was third in the 300 hurdles at 48.11, while she was fourth in discus at 103-6.

Other state qualifiers for Otsego were Olivia Klimp in long jump (fifth at 16-9) along with Madden Fitzpatrick and Audrey Holmes in throws. Fitzpatrick was fifth at 35-4.5 and Holmes was sixth at 34-11.

"Olivia is an explosive athlete who loves to compete, and she seems to get better and better each time she steps on the runway," Scott said.

"Madden and Audrey qualifying in the shot put as underclassmen is also a huge accomplishment. Neither one of them is incredibly tall or incredibly big. They have found success by being detail oriented technicians and attacking every single workout and practice with intensity and focus."

For Allegan, Bailee Dilley will join VandenAkker at the Finals thanks to her fourth-place showing in pole vault of 9-6.

"We were excited to have Bailee hit the qualifying mark in the pole vault this year," Chalupa said.

Plainwell's 4x100 team of Hailey Newcomb, Delainey Poel, Nyra Cross and Alayna Ranney also hit the qualifying mark, as they had a time of 51.03 to place fifth.

The Division 2 State Finals are slated for Saturday, May 31, at Hamilton High School.

Allegan's Jayden VandenAkker won the 100 hurdles and the 300 hurdles at regionals. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Wesseldyk claims three titles at regionals

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

BERRIEN SPRINGS—What a difference a year can make.

After having just two state qualifiers last season, the Otsego boys track team will send nine athletes in seven events to the Division 2 State Finals this year.

"Friday was a great day for our program," Otsego coach Steve Long said. "Beyond the guys that scored points or qualified to state, I was happy with our overall competitiveness. This is always a really fun time of the year with the excitement of perhaps earning a couple more weeks of the season and a trip to the State Finals."

Otsego placed fifth in the team standings with 72.5 points, which was just two points behind fourth-place Coldwater. Plainwell was 10th with 22 points, while Allegan placed 14th with three points.

Caleb Wesseldyk led the charge for the Bulldogs, as he was part of all three of Otsego's event victories. That included running the anchor leg for the 4x800 relay team that also included Holten Mulherin, Matt Long and Kenny Sheffer.

In that event, the Bulldogs posted a season-best time of 8:09.64 to edge out favorite Three Rivers by 1.9 seconds.

"I love the relays, so the race of the day for me was the 4x800," Steve Long said. "We came in with a season best time of 8:24 and hadn't even really given the top seed a run for their money all season.

"I gave each of the guys a goal time to hit in order to run what I thought would be perhaps our best performance possible. All four of the men hit those times or better and we finished with a 15-second season best time to snag the regional champ spot."

Mulherin ran a split time of 2:04, while Matt Long was at 2:02, Sheffer was at 2:06 and Wesseldyk was at 1:57.

Wesseldyk also won the 1,600 at 4:25.04 and the 3,200 at 9:54.82.

"Caleb had a pretty great day, winning three events," Steve Long said. "He looked pretty comfortable in all of the runs. I really like where his confidence is right now. He looks strong and feels strong."

Sheffer finished second to Wesseldyk in the 3,200, clocking in at a personal-best of 9:56.32.

"Kenny has always been known for his endurance, but he's really been working on his leg speed this season," Steve Long said. "He showed that off a little bit walking away from the competition in the last couple laps to take the runner-up spot."

Otsego's Caleb Wesseldyk won regional titles in the 1,600, the 3,200 and the 4x800 relay. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Carson Brooks also posted a runner-up finish, with his coming in pole vault with a height of 12-8.

"Carson has had a great season so far, and he had another great day at regionals," Steve Long said. "He's been eyeing the school record of 13-6 all season, so he's excited to get one more shot at it at the State Finals against the best vaulters in the state."

Like he did last season, Alex Robbins qualified in both shot put and discus. He placed third in discus at 152-7.5 and fifth in shot put at 50-10.

"Alex had a solid day in the throws," Steve Long said. "When Alex is on, he's really an impressive athlete. I'm excited to see what he can do at the State Finals."

Also qualifying for the Finals for Otsego was the 4x400 relay team of Michael Spitzner, Zeke Andrina, Matt Long and Jack Cook.

"I was also impressed that a couple kids gave up their individual races to try to help their relay teams qualify," Steve Long said. "Michael Spitzner gave up his 300H race, which has been his best race all season. And Matt Long gave up the open 400 and 800.

"I can't say enough about this group of young men. Last season, our top 400 runner was a :55, and this year, these guys have embraced the pain of this event and really helped change the culture of this program."

Plainwell, meanwhile, had one state qualifier, as Donovan Ryan finished runner-up in the 1,600 at 4:27.78.

"I believe the boys did the best they could," Plainwell coach Scott Evans said. "We had a lot of great performances, but I know that not everyone had the day that they had hoped for.

"I thought Donovan ran a smart race and just stayed with the pack. With about a lap to go he went with the leader. I'm thinking with some training this week and early next week we will be running even faster at the state meet."

Allegan's best showing came from Kellen Chalupa, who posted a 2:04.4 in the 800.

Martin baseball splits twin bill with Black River

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

MARTIN—A big game from Blake Sweeting helped lift the Martin baseball team to a 10-3 win over Black River in the opener of a twin bill on Tuesday, May 13.

Sweeting drove in four runs, including a two-run double in a five-run sixth inning for the Clippers.

Isaac Suk had two hits for Martin, which racked up 12 stolen bases and seven walks.

On the mound, Anderson Keeler and Jackson Kennedy combined to allow one earned run.

In the nightcap, Martin fell 6-5.

Haylen Buell led the Clipper offense with two RBI, while Keeler swiped three of the team's seven stolen bases.

Kennedy struck out 10 batters over 4.1 innings, but Black River's offense proved just enough to hold off the Clippers' comeback bid.

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ATHLETE of the WEEK

Drew Rayman
Plainwell
Boys Golf

Plainwell junior Drew Rayman has enjoyed a stellar season on the golf course.

Most recently, Rayman captured medalist honors at the Portage Central Invitational on Monday, May 18, shooting an even-par 71. That put him four shots ahead of his nearest competitors.

He also finished second in a field of 120 at the Tullymore Invitational the previous week.

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Saugatuck girls place second at regionals on home track

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

SAUGATUCK—For the second year in a row, Saugatuck played host to a track & field regional.

The difference was that last year it was a Division 4 regional, while this year it was a Division 3 regional.

Despite that step up in the level of competition, the two Saugatuck teams still put together strong performances.

The Saugatuck girls finished runner-up with 85 points, while the Saugatuck boys tied for fifth place with 50 points.

Newaygo won the girls title with 93.6 points. Fennville was 13th with 16 points.

On the boys side, North Muskegon won with 134 points, followed by Wyoming Potter's House (56) in second, Montague (54) in third, Ravenna (53) in fourth and Kent City (50) tied for fifth with Saugatuck. Fennville competed but failed to score.

Alina Martinson and Mazie Robison led the charge for the Saugatuck girls, with each winning at least one individual event and qualifying for the Division 3 State Finals four events apiece.

Robison's day included a pair of victories, as she won the 100 dash (13.27) and the 100 hurdles (15.37). She also placed third in the 200 dash at 26.9 to qualify for the finals in that event as well.

Carter Miller qualified for the State Finals in discus for Saugatuck. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Martinson took first in the 400 at 59.15 and was runner-up in the 800 at 2:28.57.

Robison and Martinson also teamed with Leora Buss and Mallory Hass to finish fourth in the 4x100 relay with a qualifying time of 52.56.

Martinson's final qualifying time came in the 4x800 relay, where she joined Savannah VanDenBerg, Kamryn Sixberry and Lyvia Curtis to earn runner-up honors in the 4x800 relay at 10:10.28.

Niki McNeil accounted for Saugatuck's other qualifying effort, as she won discus with a personal-best distance of 131-2.

The Fennville girls had a pair of qualifiers in Isabelle Sliter and Sara Skinner.

Sliter finished second in the 1,600 with a time of 5:25.31. Skinner was second in pole vault at 9-0.

On the boys side, seniors Carter Miller and Cass Stanberry advanced to the State Finals.

Miller won discus at 137-8, while Stanberry was second in long jump at 21-2.5.

Saugatuck's Mazie Robison won the 100 dash and the 100 hurdles at regionals. (Photo by Scott Sullivan)

Otsego's Lingbeek hits for cycle

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

OTSEGO—Audrey Lingbeek hit for the cycle to highlight a 20-hit attack by the Otsego softball team in the second game of a doubleheader against Middleville on Monday, May 18.

Lingbeek finished 4-for-4 with a home run, a triple, a double, a walk, five runs and four RBI as the Bulldogs prevailed 15-4.

The win allowed Otsego to salvage the split after dropping the opener 5-2.

Lingbeek was one of six Bulldogs to collect multiple hits in the nightcap. The others were Addy Lucas (4-for-5 with two runs and three RBI), Alyvia Farrell (3-for-5 with three runs and an RBI), Mariah Weaver (2-for-4 with a run and three RBI), Mikayla Bateman (2-for-2 with a run and two RBI) and Sydneigh Mosher (2-for-2).

Cassie Holland pitched all six innings of the mercy-rule-shortened game, allowing four runs on nine hits with a walk and three strikeouts.

Lingbeek pitched a complete game in the opener, striking out 12. But she took the loss, as Middleville scored five runs on seven hits and three walks.

Lucas and Emma Zimmerman each went 2-for-3 in the losing cause.

On Friday, May 16, Lingbeek connected for three home runs in Otsego's Wolverine Conference twin bill at Three Rivers.

That was the good news for Otsego. The bad news was that Three Rivers took both games, winning by scores of 5-4 and 12-6.

In game one, the Bulldogs got RBI singles from Farrell and Lingbeek in the top of the seventh inning to knot the score at 4-4. But Three Rivers pushed a run across the plate in the bottom of the frame to secure the win.

Lingbeek finished 3-for-4 with a homer and a double. She also started in the pitcher's circle and took the loss, allowing five runs—two earned—on three hits with two walks and 11 strikeouts.

Mosher added a 2-for-3 effort.

In the nightcap, Lingbeek had a sacrifice fly and launched a pair of two-run homers to drive in five of Otsego's six runs. But that wasn't enough.

Farrell went 2-for-3 with a double and three runs in the loss.

Audrey Lingbeek shows off her three home run balls against Three Rivers. (Photo provided)

Saugatuck soccer shuts out Lawton

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

SAUGATUCK—At halftime of its SAC contest with visiting Lawton on Monday, May 18, the Saugatuck girls soccer team found itself facing a 3-2 deficit.

But the second half belonged to the Trailblazers.

Saugatuck outscored the Blue Devils 3-0 after halftime to secure the 5-3 win in comeback style.

"We're finally starting to recover from some of our mid-season injuries," Saugatuck coach Jim Theis said.

Neave Rewa spearheaded the Trailblazers' offensive attack, scoring a pair of goals and assisting on another.

Alina Martinson and Mariela Garcia also were involved in multiple goals. Martinson scored twice, while Garcia finished with one goal and two assists.

Mallory Hass assisted on two goals for Saugatuck and Sage Larsen contributed one assist.

Kennedy Gustafson was busy in goal, as she faced 17 shots from Lawton and finished with 14 saves.

On Friday, May 16, Saugatuck traveled to Allegan to take on the Tigers.

After a scoreless first half, Allegan tallied two second-half goals to hand the Trailblazers a 2-0 loss.

Gustafson was even busier in this game, as she racked up 26 saves.

Hamilton baseball earns walk-off victory

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

HAMILTON—The second game of the baseball doubleheader between host Hamilton and Unity Christian on Monday, May 19, was a true pitchers' duel.

Neither team scored through the first eight innings.

But after Unity Christian scored once in the top of the ninth inning, the Hawkeyes responded with a pair of runs in the bottom of the frame to claim the 2-1 victory in walk-off fashion.

The win allowed Hamilton to complete the sweep thanks to a 4-3 win in the opener.

In the second game, Owen Brown led off the bottom of the ninth for Hamilton with a double. He scored on a single by Clay Blauwkamp, who took second base on the throw to the plate.

That set the stage for Brett Vanderkooi, who laced a double to drive in the winning run.

Caleb Oosterink started for Hamilton and worked the first 5.2 innings, striking out five. Dakota Breuker was credited with the win, throwing the final 3.1 innings and allowing the one run.

Marc Brower went 2-for-3 at the plate with a walk.

Blauwkamp earned the win in game one, scattering eight eights and allowing one earned run in the complete-game effort.

Brower and James Hoffman both went 2-for-3 with a run to lead Hamilton's offensive charge.

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Elizabeth V. Bauer
Attorney at Law
128 East Bridge St., Plainwell
Ramsey & Bauer
elizabeth@ramseybauer.net
ph: 269-685-6883
fax: 269-685-2631
ramseybauer.net

Wayland softball sweeps twin bill to win league title

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

GRAND RAPIDS—A doubleheader sweep over West Catholic on Monday, May 18, moved the Wayland softball to 12-0 in the OK Gold and secured the 30th conference title in the program's 50-year history.

The Wildcats won by scores of 10-0 and 17-2.

Harmony Laker started the scoring in game one with a solo homer in the second inning. The Wildcats never looked back, plating five runs and inning later and stopping the game after five innings due to the mercy rule.

Mackenzie Kositzky led Wayland with three hits, while Laker and Shelby VanHouten each drove in a pair of runs.

Maddie Ludema started the game for Wayland and pitched all five innings. She limited West Catholic to two hits while striking out three.

In the nightcap, Wayland trailed 2-1 after one inning. But the Wildcats quickly changed that, plating eight runs in the second frame to go up 9-2. A two-run double by Ludema was among the big hits of the inning.

Rae Stallard led Wayland's offensive charge, going 3-for-3 with home run.

The Wildcats displayed a good eye at the plate, collecting 14 walks. Clara Dutkiewicz and Kaylee Lown led the team with three bases on balls each.

Stallard, VanHouten and Laney Wolf each stole multiple bases for Wayland, which finished with nine steals.

Laker started in the circle for Wayland, allowing two runs on two hits in 3.2 innings to collect the win. She struck out six and walked four

The Wayland softball team won the OK Gold title. (Photo provided

Hamilton boys send 10 athletes to Finals

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

ALLENDALE—Hamilton boys track coach Matthew Field's primary goal at the Division 2 regional at Allendale on Saturday, May 17, was simple.

"The guys I brought (to the regional meet) were almost all seniors, so we wanted to send as many of them as possible to (the State Finals) in their preferred events," he said.

Mission accomplished.

The Hawkeyes will have 10 athletes representing them at the State Finals when they host the event for the second straight year on Saturday, May 31.

Hamilton placed fifth in the team standings with 66 points, while Wayland was fourth with 68 points and Hopkins was ninth with 33 points. Allendale won the regional title with 102.75 points, followed by Whitehall (99) and Holland Christian (78.75).

"Despite the challenging weather, we accomplished our goal for the meet," Field said. "Winning regionals as a team would be an important achievement, but we were not willing to jeopardize any athlete's opportunity to qualify for state in the chase for that team regional title.

"This meant pulling athletes out of some field events and the 4x800 relay, leaving a lot of points on the table. But the benefit of focusing on individuals for regionals this year is that we'll have 10 athletes representing us at the State Finals.

Eight of those athletes are seniors.

"We're excited to give (the seniors) a proper send off for their final home meet," Field said.

Hamilton was particularly strong in the relays, as the Hawkeyes won one and finished second in two others.

The team of AJ Friedriechsen, Zach Stoel, Gabe Schrotenboer and Jeren Bronkhorst won the 4x200 at 1:31.31. The runner-up finishes came from the 4x100 team of Noel Vigil, Friedriechsen, Cyrus Berens and Bronkhorst (44.18) and the 4x400 team of Abatu Dykstra, Schrotenboer, Bronkhorst and Friedriechsen.

Lincoln Phillips led the way for Hamilton in the individual events, winning the 300 hurdles (40.27) and placing second in the 110 hurdles (15.55) to qualify in both.

Hudsen Hulst (seventh in the 110 hurdles at 16.37) and Logan Eding (third in discus at 154-6) also qualified.

Wayland had two state qualifiers, both of whom are throwers.

Ashton Kuhlmann was a double qualifier, doing so by winning shot put (48-0.25) and placing seventh in discus (143-8.5).

Adam Huff won discus with a distance of 163-0.

"We're really excited for Adam and Ashton being regional champs on a pretty tough weather day," Wayland coach Marty Howard said.

Huff is the defending state champion in discus.

"I thought we had good opportunities for a handful of other kids to be able to qualify for the finals, but the cooler temperatures and strong winds made conditions difficult," Howard said. "There were very few additional qualifiers throughout the entire day and it was disappointing, but nothing we could control."

Wayland will join Hamilton as two of the 20 teams to compete at the MITCA Team Finals in Berrien Springs on Friday, May 23.

For Hopkins, Clayton Kerber (second in the 300 hurdles at 41.59) and Luke Klinge (third in pole vault at 12-8) qualified for the Finals.

On the girls side, Hopkins led the way with six state qualifiers in five events. Hamilton and Wayland each had one state qualifier, with both coming in pole vault.

Kambria Moored led Hopkins, as she qualified individually in the 100 hurdles (second at 15.74) and 300 hurdles (second at 49.06). She was also part of the qualifying 4x100 team (second at 50.9) and also included Annika Ford, Ellarie Baugh and Riley Homrich.

Homrich won the 100 at 12.73, while Keilah Bonga won discus at 122-1 to account for Hopkins' other qualifiers.

Hamilton's Izabella Tamminga won pole vault at 10-0, while Wayland's Evie Mathis had previously met the early qualifying mark. Mathis did not compete at regionals.

In the team standings, Hopkins was fifth with 59 points, Wayland was eighth with 33 points and Hamilton was ninth with 24 points.

Ashton Kuhlmann won a regional title in shot put for Wayland. (Photo by Jason Wesseldyk)

Rayman claims medalist honors at Mustang Invite

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

SCOTTS—Of all the golfers in the eight-team Mustang Invitational hosted by Portage Central on Monday, May 19, all but one finished with a score over par.

That one? Plainwell's Drew Rayman.

Shooting an even-par 36 on the front 9 and an even-par 35 on the back 9, Rayman carded a 71 to earn medalist honors by four strokes over a group of three that included Otsego's Spencer Shearer.

Rayman's winning effort helped lift Plainwell to a second-place showing in the team standings at 314, which was two strokes behind winner Portage Central. Otsego was fourth at 319.

For Rayman, a pair of birdies on the first four holes of the front 9 negated a pair of bogies on the final four holes. And on the back nine, three birdies on the first four holes made up for a bogie on No. 16 and a double bogie on No. 18.

Sawyer McCall (79), Gibson Youngs (83) and Jon Schmidtke (92) also scored for Plainwell.

For Otsego, Owen Santman was one stroke behind Shearer at 76. Karson Holladay (84) and Andrew Ballman (84) followed.

On Monday, May 12, Plainwell participated in the Tulleymore Invitational and earned a top-10 finish in a field that included the top two teams in Division 2. Plainwell finished at 334.

Rayman shined in this event as well, carding a 73 to place second out of 120 golfers. Rayman had three birdies along the way.

McCall (86), Youngs (87) and Cameron Larsen (88) rounded out the scoring for the Trojans.

Plainwell's Drew Rayman shows off his first-place medal. (Photo provided)

Perez leads Fennville soccer to victory

By Jason Wesseldyk
Sports Editor

FENNVILLE—Nadia Perez has been the Fennville girls soccer team's top scoring threat throughout the season.

The home game with Bangor on Monday, May 19, was no exception, as Perez scored three goals to lead the Blackhawks to the 5-0 win.

Christina Mendoza and Andy Balke also got in on the scoring action, with each picking up a goal and an assist.

Mayling Mendoza-Huynh and Marisol Diaz each added an assist in the winning cause.

GANGES TOWNSHIP

BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Ganges Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2025-2026 on Tuesday, June, 10, 2025 at 7:00pm at the Ganges Township Hall, 1904 64th Street, Fennville, Michigan. **The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.** A copy of the budget will be available for inspection during this meeting.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township Clerk in advance by calling (269) 543-8316.

John Hebert, Supervisor
Ganges Township
(269) 543-4634

Robin Phelps, Clerk
Ganges Township
(269) 543-8316

VALLEY TOWNSHIP

RESIDENTS' CLEAN-UP DAY
SATURDAY, May 31, 2025 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Clean-up site is located at 4726 - 118th Ave.
Approximately 1 mile west of DNR office

Accepted: Refrigerators, stoves, washers, small appliances, old furniture, and unwanted household items.

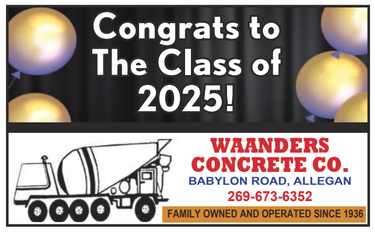
NOT Accepted: Tires, paint cans, yard waste, televisions, burn barrels, or household garbage. This is a good time to get rid of those unwanted items in and around the house. Keep our township beautiful. Please inform your Valley neighbors so we can make this a success again this year!

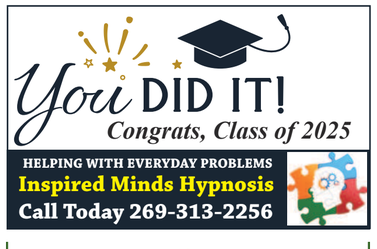
***Please note: Due to Republic's Saturday hours, we can only get fresh dumpsters until Noon. Once those containers are full, we will not be able to accept any more items.

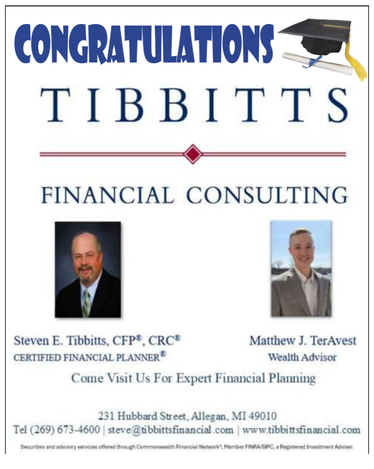
Questions, call 269-673-5962

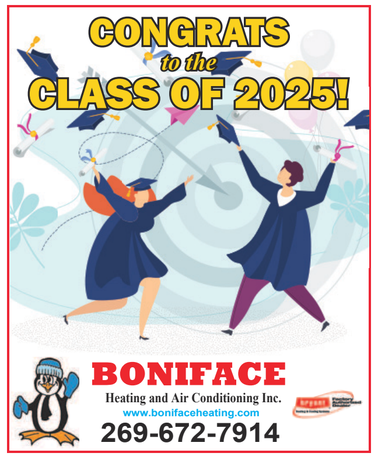
Hopkins High School Class of 2025

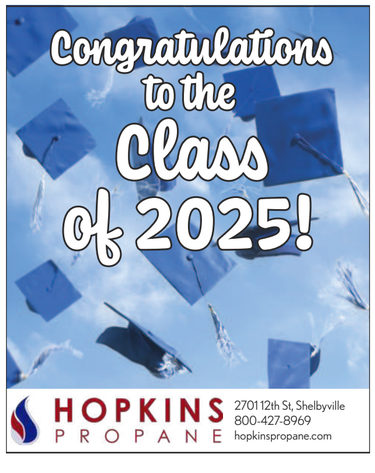
Michael Ryan Arbanas
Aaron Delbert Arnsman
Adam Tucker Ashby
Lydia Grace Athearn
Hayden Robert Avery
Lillia Hope Bailey
Surya TejaShri Bamdila
Nicholas Scott Barnes
Kaiden Michael Bartram
David Wendall Bartz
Rebekah Lynn Beilby
Ty Christopher Belka
Cody Craig Benting
Ethan Scott Berry
Chloe Sue Billman
Tegan Alyssa Black
Andrew Martin Blank
Alyssa Ann Bracelin
Hannah Jo Brinks
Charles Duane Brown III
Caden Robert Brown
Milo Robert Brown
Alexander Chavez-Orozco
Isabella Faith Jing Chitwood
Allie Rae Coffey
Annie Ruth Coffey
Luke Joseph Dame
Landen Mitchell Dandrow
Leyton Robert Davis
Chloe Lynn Dean
Austin Ryan Dewey
Anaiya Jaslene Draine
Myah Gabrielle Duimstra
Nathan Scott Ebenstein
Olivya Fay Ezell
Sora Elizabeth Gamble
Lena Ann Germain
Talia Denise Guzman
Wyatt James Harmsen
Jacob Henry Helder
Joseph Timothy Hendriksma
Mackenzie Rose Heppe-Ungrey
Camerin Jean Hibma
Andrew Zane Hoffer
Haleigh Ann Huff
Rianna Paige Hugmeyer
Navaya Byrdie Ingle
Samantha Joy Jacobusse
Alexis Catherine Jankowiak
Forrest Alan Jarvis-Finkbeiner
Jordan Lynn Jilek
Samre Joke` Telegea Johnson
Tanner Brayden Jones
Niklas Valtteri Kaiponen
Kenyon Robert Katje
Shae'Lyn Nikkole Krause
Ayden Lee Kuhn
Emma Sue Langlois
Max Michael Langlois
Isabella Margaret Laskowski
Jaylee Rae Long
Olivia Rose Martinez
Riley Nicole Martinez
Kaden Michael Maten
Joshua Andrew Maule
Geena Lynne Meengs
Matthew Wayne Miller
Nash Tyler Miller
Aiden Joseph Mohr
Kambria Paige Moored
Jeffrey James Osterhout
Cobie Marie Palmbos
Kailyn Marie Pant
Avery Jackson Pavlak
John Thomas Pedala
Kaden Charles Petroshus
Logan Zane Postma
Owen John Reed
Brad Leon Reynolds
Lyla Ann Reynolds
Luke James Rhodes
James Curtis Robinson
Kara Joyce Rodanhisler
Cole Jaimes Schaendorf
Nicholas Matthew Schultz
Jolee Rebecca Schumacher
Leah Kathryn Schumacher
Madison Joy Schwartz
Eric Eugene Shaffer
Tyler Lewis Simon
Cole Richard Slyker
Christian Michael Smigiel
Aubree Marie Snyder
Braylon Edward Spanjer
Wyatt Cooper Stedman
Caleb Vincent Steingold
Natilee Joy Sterken
Chase Michael Summerfelt
Dominic Lee Tanner
Cody Jay Taylor
Leala Rae Thurston
Laura Iamane Tomiosso
Colby Ryan Tucker
Isaiah Joshua Tuinstra
Luke Elisha Van Slyke
Ava Grace VanderKolk
Ava Leslie VanderVeen
Kassidy Marie VanHorn
Blake James VanWagner
Aiden Matthew Vilella
Noah Curtiss Vriesman
Matthew Lance Warren
Logan Timothy Welch
Alan Patrick Wells
Sidney Joy Westerhof
Zachary Chase Wierenga
Ryan Thomas Williams
Briana Ella Wright
Lydia Grace Yerrick











Peek at the Past

From the pages of The Allegan News and The Allegan County News and Gazette:

May 22, 1950

Jones family races time to complete speedway for Memorial Day opening: A big hill, two swamps and a cornfield in Trowbridge Township are being transformed into what promises to be the fastest stockcar racing track in southwestern Michigan.

The "Jones Speedway" will get is baptism Memorial Day, May 30, when some of the top drivers in the Midwest will fight it out for purses which owner-builder-operator Carl Z. Jones promises will be "generous."

Located four miles south of Allegan on M-40 on the east side of Pike Lake, the quarter-mile track is rapidly taking shape. By the same day-and-night work that brought Jones and company this far, they have no doubts about everything will be ready for the grand opening next Thursday.

May 22, 1975

Allegan's Padgham Field at critical juncture?: In Jim Michel's eyes, Allegan's airport is the door through which the city can get off the ground.

City Manager Kenneth Bollinger, however, sees the airport now as "just a rich man's tool."

But while the two seem nautical miles apart, both agree an air facility is an important key in helping the city continue to grow.

As in most matters involving people who collect, and who spend, taxpayers' cash, it's the money that separates the two.

"Business goes where airports go," said Michels, the airport manager and co-owner, with his wife Diane, of Allegan Aviation. "The airport is literally Allegan's front door for air and business transportation."

But says Bollinger:

"There just hasn't been the kind of demand and traffic to generate adequate revenue that you need for a successful operation. We have to continue operating the airport for the good of the town, but it's now a burden to the taxpayer to the tune of about $500,000."

Marked by a stone bearing a sign denoting its official opening, Allegan's airfield stands at a critical juncture: From here it might become a financial success. . . or remain what City Manager Bollinger calls a 'burden on the taxpayer.'
News & Gazette photo

May 25, 2000

Area resident gets big lottery win: Local Saugatuck resident Mark McVea is one of the most recent winners in the Big Gane Lottery.

McVea matched five numbers in the May 5 game, which brought him a prize of $150,000.

"Once I found out what the winning numbers were, I just kept checking my ticket over and over again," McVea said in a press release from the lottery bureau. "I didn't believe I was a winner until I called the lottery to verify I had a winning ticket."

McVea is planning on leaving the money in his bank account as it is making more interest than some other investment options currently. He doesn't have any other clear plans for the money just yet.

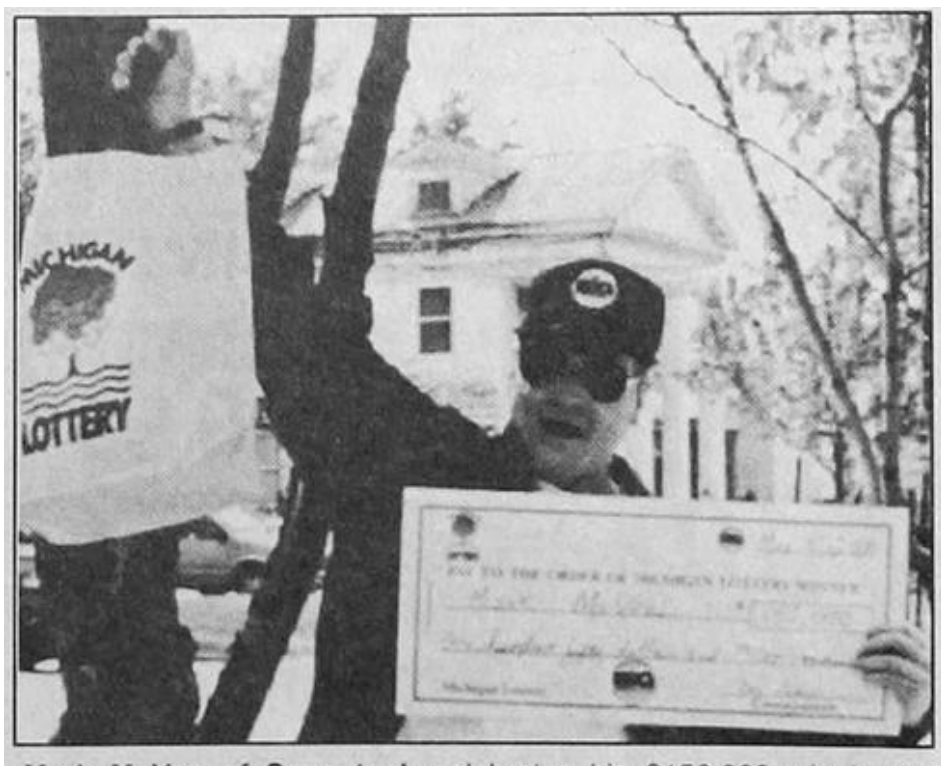
He does plan to acquire a new car, but said that he really likes older cars for style and dependability.

He also thinks that taking a fishing trip up to Hudson Bay in Canada would be especially memorable.

"I've always wanted to do that," he said. "It just seems like such a beautiful area up there."

The current plans for some of the money include donations to worthy causes.

"I will definitely give something to the Masonic Lodge and to the Disabled American Veterans organization," McVea said.



Mark McVea of Saugatuck celebrates his $150,000 win in the Michigan Lottery's Big Game outside lottery headquarters in Lansing. (Photo provided)

May 21, 2020

Plainwell's TerMeer, Timpe sign to play soccer for Delta: Lifelong friends and Plainwell High School seniors Alivia TerMeer and Paige Timpe were excited about the opportunity to play one final season together as members of the Trojan girls soccer team.

The COVID-19 pandemic robbed them of that opportunity, as spring sports were cancelled due to schools being shut down for the remainder of the academic year.

That, however, doesn't mean the two have played together for the last time.

Rather, TerMeer and Timpe will join forces at the collegiate level, as both recently signed their letters of intent to continue their soccer careers at Delta College.

"We are so excited for Aliva and Paige to join our team," Delta coach Damon Amey said. "Not only are they great soccer players, but they are also amazing people and will fit very well with the dynamics of our program and what we're building here."

Playing together in college wasn't always a goal for TerMeer and Timpe.

"At the beginning (of the recruiting process), we never really talked about (going to the same college)," Timpe said. "But then we both started receiving offers from the same schools and going to the same camps together.

Alivia TerMeer (left) and Paige Timpe sport their new Delta College soccer gear after signing to play for the Pioneers. (Photo provided)

"So, we started talking about the pros and cons of each school and we ended up choosing to go to Delta together next year."

—Compiled by Jason Wesseldyk

Deaths

April 28, 2025
BOBBY JAMES BROWN, 72, Lee Twp.

May 3, 2025
DENNIS MUCZYNSKI, 75, Dorr Twp.

May 5, 2025
COLLEEN MAE SMITH, 95, Salem Twp.

May 6, 2025
MARGARET BELVA SEEDORF, 87, Otsego
COREY DALE LAKE, 47, Leighton Twp.
DAVID RICHARD THOMPSON, 80, Valley Twp.

May 7, 2025
DONALD E LAMBERT, 65, Douglas
MICHAEL DENNIS SAPP SR, 75, Leighton Twp
JOHN PAUL SMITH, 87, Allegan Twp.

May 8, 2025
SHIRLEY ANN MCNEES, 86, Lee Twp.

May 9, 2025
BETTY LORRAINE POWERS, 93, Allegan

May 10, 2025
DONNA MARJEAN BOOK, 85, Otsego Twp.

May 11, 2025
HECTOR SOTO, 62, Holland
LEON JAY VAN REES, 91, holland

May 12, 2025
MARILYN ALBERTA NORTON, 89, Otsego Twp.

Marriages

The following people applied for a marriage license between May 7 and May 14:

DANIEL JAMES HOPP, Hopkins, and **SAMANTHA JO GATES**, Hopkins

JOSHUA DAVID GAERTE, Holland, and **DANIELLE MICHELLE SMITH**, Bath

NICKLAS LEE ALTHOUSE, Holland, and **JACY LYNN VRYHOF**, holland

KAITLYN MARIE HINZE, Plainwell, and **JESSE STEVEN HOUGH**, Plainwell

WILLIAM CHARLES STEIMEL, Allegan, and **THERESA ANNE VANGEMERT**, Allegan

HEATHER LYNN MAUNEY, Otsego, and **IAN ALEXANDER PERSHING**, Otsego

DONALD JACK HAAN, Hamilton, and **CARRIE ANNE CALDWELL**, Hamilton

CATHERINE ELIZABETH BATCHELDER, Allegan, and **BRENTON JOHN WEICK**, Allegan

COREY LEE EDING, Holland, and **DAWN MICHELLE PRINS**, Hamilton

DEREK MICHAEL MEYERING, Wayland, and **AMANDA SUE BOSCH**, Holland

CHLOE DANIELLE DEJONGE, Fennville, and **CASEY JAMES WEST JOHNSON**, PLYMOUTH, IN

STACIE LYNN PARDEE, Plainwell, and **JOHNNY ALLEN RISNER**, Plainwell

CHRISTOPHER ALAN MAAS, Allegan, and **AIXA JOSELYN PINA**, Allegan

BLUES GLENN COUGHLAN LEHIGH, Wayland, and **ALEXANDER WAYNE BERGMAN**, Wayland

DESMOND JOHN VANDER VEN, Otsego, and **ELIZABETH JOY ABBOTT**, Otsego

JOSEPH WILLIAM SCHLOFF, Dorr, and **JENNA LEIGH POTTER**, Dorr

SUDOKU

Fun By The Numbers
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

				2		3		7
	7				9			5
8			4			6		
	8							
			1			4	6	
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	1							
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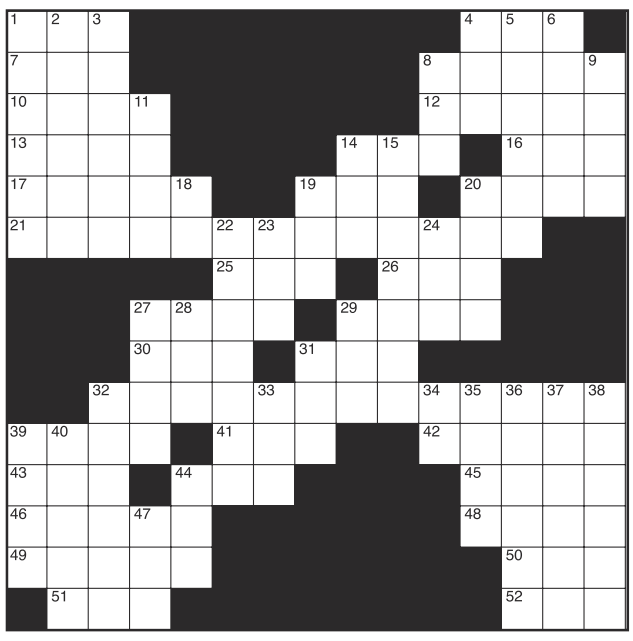
(See Solution Page C7)

Crossword



CLUES ACROSS
1. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
4. British thermal unit
7. Afflict
8. Refrain from harming
10. Galls
12. Leg bone
13. Rhine distributary
14. Recipe measurement
16. Chap
17. Useful book
19. Mountain Time
20. Snakelike fishes
21. Places where people live
25. US, Latin America, Canada belong to
26. Periodical
27. A type of sense
29. A way to get possession of
30. Everyone has one
31. Body art
32. Mr. October
39. Abba __, Israeli politician
41. Head movement
42. Jeweled headdress
43. VCR button
44. A way to change color
45. Basketball move
46. Upright stone slab
48. Forest-dwelling monkey
49. Pulsate steadily
50. Negative
51. Sino-Soviet bloc (abbr.)
52. Unit of work

CLUES DOWN
1. Island
2. Pittsburgh ballplayer
3. Chemical compound
4. Indicates density of data (abbr.)
5. Mesas
6. Wild, long-legged sheep
8. Engine additive
9. 'CSI' actor George
11. Stony waste matter
14. Thyroid-stimulating hormone
15. Pores in a leaf's epidermis
18. Digraph
19. Married woman
20. Peripheral
22. Northern Italy city
23. Klutz
24. Type of tree
27. Witnessed
28. Popular breakfast food
29. __ Mahal
31. BoSox legend Williams
32. Professional drivers
33. Atom or molecule type
34. The Constitution State
35. Chest to store clothes (Scottish)
36. Type of solution
37. Speaker
38. Specifying
39. Formerly (archaic)
40. Wiseman and Krom are two
44. The bill in a restaurant
47. Tennis shot

■ see **Solution**, Page C7

Public Notices

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

This firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information we obtain will be used for that purpose.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, Michigan, starting promptly at 9:00 o'clock in the forenoon on Thursday, the 5th day of June, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

The mortgage was made by KEITH BUCHHOLZ, a single man ("Mortgagor"), to GREENSTONE FARM CREDIT SERVICES, FLCA, a federally chartered corporation, having an office at 3515 West Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823 (the "Mortgagee"), dated August 8, 2019, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Allegan County, Michigan on August 13, 2019, as Document No. 2019013541 or Liber 4370, Page 462 (the "Mortgage"). By reason of a default under the conditions of the Mortgage, the Mortgagee elects to declare and hereby declares the entire unpaid amount of the Mortgage due and payable forthwith. Mortgagee is the owner of the indebtedness secured by the Mortgage.

As of the date of this Notice there is claimed to be due for principal and interest on the Mortgage the sum of One Hundred Seventy-Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety and 48/100 Dollars ($179,790.48). No suit or proceeding at law has been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage or any part thereof.

The premises covered by the Mortgage are situated in the Township of Ganges, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, and are described as follows:

The South 40 acres of the North 70 acres of the East 3/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 34, Town 2 North, Range 16 West, Ganges Township, Allegan County, Michigan, except a strip 1 rod wide off the North side thereof.

And the Northwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 34, Town 2 North, Range 16 West, Ganges Township, Allegan County, Michigan

Together with all fixtures, tenements, hereditaments, and appurtenances belonging or in any way appertaining to the premises.

Commonly known as: 1270 64th Street, Fennville, Michigan 49408

P.P. #03-07-034-015-01 and 03-07-034-015-02

Notice is further given that the length of the redemption period will be one (1) year from the date of sale.

If the premises are sold at a foreclosure sale, under MCLA §600.3278 the Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the premises at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the Mortgagee for damaging the premises during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Dated: May 1, 2025
GREENSTONE FARM CREDIT SERVICES, FLCA
Mortgagee
Timothy Hillegonds
WARNER NORCROSS + JUDD LLP
150 Ottawa Avenue NW Suite 1500
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2487
(616) 752-2000
26722905
5-1 5-22

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on June 05, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Randall Overweg and Dee Ann Overweg, husband and wife Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: August 21, 2023 Recorded on September 5, 2023, in Document No. 2023012709, Liber 4883, on Page 318, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Union Home Mortgage Corp. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Two Hundred Eighty-Four Thousand Four Hundred Thirty-Four and 96/100 Dollars ($284,434.96) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Allegan County, and described as: Part of the East half of the Southwest 1/4 Section 16, Town 3 North, Range 14 West, Heath Township, Allegan County, Michigan described as beginning at the South 1/4 corner of Section 16 and proceeding thence along the South line of Section 16 due West 233.52 feet; thence along the centerline of an existing road North 05 degrees 28 minutes 57 seconds West 275.10 feet; thence South 89 degrees 39 minutes 42 seconds East 264.26 feet; thence along the North and South 1/4 line South 00 degrees 56 minutes 13 seconds West 272.31 feet to the point of beginning. Commonly known as 4399 130th Ave, Hamilton, MI 49419 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Union Home Mortgage Corp. Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1560517
(05-01)(05-22)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on June 5, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Chris Wheatley, married man

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): PennyMac Loan Services LLC

Date of Mortgage: October 27, 2021

Date of Mortgage Recording: November 9, 2021

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $157,538.06

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Salem, Allegan County, Michigan, and described as: That part of the West 1/2 of the East 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 33, Town 4 North, Range 13 West, Salem Township, Allegan County, Michigan, described as commencing at the South 1/4 post of said Section; thence South 88 degrees 39 minutes 31 seconds West, on the South Section line, 931.40 feet; thence North 01 degrees 31 minutes 12 seconds West, parallel to the East line of the West 1/2 of the East 1/2 of Southwest 1/4, 710.50 feet to the point of beginning of the parcel of land herein described; thence continuing North 01 degrees 31 minutes 12 seconds West, 380.17 feet; thence North 88 degrees 39 minutes 31 seconds East, parallel to the South Section line, 270.00 feet to the East line of the West 1/2 of the East 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 33; thence South 01 degrees 31 minutes 12 seconds East, on said East line, 380.17 feet; thence South 88 degrees 39 minutes 31 seconds West, 270.00 feet to the point of beginning. Together with and subject to a 50 foot wide private roadway easement for ingress and egress over and across a strip of land described as beginning at a point on the South line of Section 33, Town 4 North, Range 13 West, being South 88 degrees 39 minutes 31 seconds West 881.40 feet from the South 1/4 corner of Section 33; thence proceeding on The South line of Section 33, South 88 degrees 39 minutes 31 seconds West 50.00 feet; thence North 01 degrees 31 minutes 12 seconds West 1290.67 feet; thence North 88 degrees 39 minutes 31 seconds East 50.00 feet; thence South 01 degrees 31 minutes 12 seconds East 1290.87 feet to the point of beginning of this easement description. That part of the West 1/2 of the East 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 33, Town 4 North, Range 13 West, Salem Township, Allegan County, Michigan, described as beginning at a point on the South line of Section 33 being South 88 degrees 39 minutes 31 seconds West 881.40 feet from the South 1/4 corner of Section 33, thence proceeding on the South line of Section 33, South 88 degrees 39 minutes 31 seconds West 50.00 feet; thence North 01 degrees 31 minutes 12 seconds West 1290.67 feet; thence North 88 degrees 39 minutes 31 seconds East 50.00 feet; thence South 01 degrees 31 minutes 12 seconds East 1290.67 feet to the point of beginning. Also, an easement over a strip of land 18 feet East and West by 400 feet North and South lying adjacent to the West line of the above described premises, said 18 feet by 400 feet lying adjacent to the South section line.

Common street address (if any): 3731 Deer Pathway Ave, Hamilton, MI 49419-8583

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: May 8, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1560687
(05-08)(05-29)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
ALLEGAN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT – CIVIL DIVISION
113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 / 269-673-0300
CASE NO.: 25-70277-CK
HORIZON BANK, Plaintiff,
v.
BARRY A. BOSBY, Defendant.
NOTICE OF SUIT

This Notice of Suit is to the Defendant above named.

You are notified that you have been sued in the Allegan County Circuit Court, 113 Chestnut St., Allegan, MI 49010, in an action entitled Horizon Bank v. Barry A. Bosby, Case No. 25-70277-CK by the person named above as Plaintiff.

The nature of the suit against you is:

Complaint for breach of Retail Installment Contract dated December 11, 2021.

You must answer the Complaint in writing, by you or your attorney, within twenty-eight (28) days after the Third Notice of Suit is published, and if you fail to do so a judgment by default may be entered.

BUTZEL LONG P.C.
Andrew W. Barnes (P70571)
Attorneys for Horizon Bank
317 Center St.
South Haven, MI 49090
(269) 287-2010
5-8 5-22

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - ALLEGAN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM, on July 03, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Tracy Ensley, unmarried Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: August 31, 2016 Recorded on September 26, 2016, Liber 4069, on Page 474, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): The Huntington National Bank Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Seventy-Two Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-Six and 03/100 Dollars ($72,426.03) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Allegan County, and described as: Lots 52, 53, 54, 55, 56 and Lots 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 and Lots 49, 50 and 51 of Round Lake Beach Plat, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 2A of plats, Page 66, Allegan County Records. EXCEPT: All that part of Lots 18 and 19, and vacated Chicago Avenue and Beach Avenue of the Plat of Round Lake Beach, according to the recorded Plat thereof, in Section 18, Town 2 North, Range 14 West, and described as follows: Beginning at the Northwest corner of Lot 52 of said Plat; thence South 01° 39`09" West along the East line of Vacated Chicago Avenue, 30.00 feet; thence North 88° 38`21" West on the South line of Lot 18, 242.01 feet to the Westerly line of said Plat; thence North 20° 54`11" East (Previously recorded as North 21 East) on said line, 66.33 feet; thence South 79° 56`53" East 215.14 feet to the Northwest corner of Lot 52 of said Plat and the Place of Beginning. Commonly known as 1806 48th St, Fennville, MI 49408 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. The Huntington National Bank Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1561117
(05-08)(05-29)

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Allegan County, starting promptly at 9:00 AM on JULY 3, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Parker Stevens, an unmarried man, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Top Flite Financial, Inc., Mortgagee, dated August 13, 2024 and recorded August 14, 2024 in Liber 4965, Page 453 Allegan County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely in its capacity as Owner Trustee of Basin Residential Loan Trust, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Ninety-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty-Six and 74/100 Dollars ($192,886.74).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public vendue at the place of holding the circuit court within Allegan County, Michigan at 9:00 AM on JULY 3, 2025.

Said premises are located in the Township of DORR, Allegan County Michigan, and are described as:

Lot 23, Litchfield Downs, according to the recorded plat thereof, filed in Liber 10, Page 55, records of Allegan County, State of Michigan.

4175 Radstock Dr, Dorr, Michigan 49323

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.

Dated: May 15, 2025
File No. 25-004598
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(05-15)(06-05)

STATE OF WISCONSIN
CIRCUIT COURT
KENOSHA COUNTY
PUBLICATION SUMMONS
Case No. 25-CV-000358 Branch 5
The Honorable David P. Wilk
Case Code 30404
(Foreclosure of Mortgage)
The amount claimed exceeds $10,000.00
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
11625 N Community House Rd
Charlotte, NC 28277
Plaintiff,
vs.
James T. Sewell
11411 270th Ave
Trevor, WI 53179-9343
Jane Doe Sewell
11411 270th Ave
Trevor, WI 53179-9343
Defendants.
THE STATE OF WISCONSIN

To each person named above as a defendant:

You are hereby notified that the plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you.

Within 40 days after May 22, 2025 you must respond with a written demand for a copy of the complaint. The demand must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is 912 56th Street, Kenosha, WI 53140-3736 and to Gray & Associates, L.L.P., plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 16345 West Glendale Drive, New Berlin, WI 53151-2841. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not demand a copy of the complaint within 40 days, the court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

Dated this 9 day of May, 2025.
Gray & Associates, L.L.P.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
By: Ian J. Thomson
State Bar No. 1076280
Case No. 25-CV-000358 Branch 5
16345 West Glendale Drive
New Berlin, WI 53151-2841
(414) 224-1987

Gray & Associates, L.L.P. is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. If you have previously received a discharge in a chapter 7 bankruptcy case, this communication should not be construed as an attempt to hold you personally liable for the debt.

5-15 6-5

TO ALL PERSONS, including: (specify non-custodial parent's name here, if applicable)

whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: PEYTON TIMOTHY HIELKEMA-VERNER has filed a petition for name change.

A name change hearing will be held on TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2025 AT 11:00 AM at FAMILY COURT COURTROOM before Judge Hon. Jolene Clearwater P74848 , to change the name of: PEYTON TIMOTHY HIELKEMA-VERNER to Peyton Timothy Verner

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Notice to Creditors

Estates of Ronald W Onken and Shirley I Onken and the Ronald W and Shirley I Onken Trust.

TO ALL CREDITORS: The decedent, Ronald W Onken, died April 21st, 2025. The other decedent, Shirley I Onken, died on March 13th, 2017. Together, the decedents established the Ronald W and Shirley I Onken Trust on April 20th, 1998.

Creditors of the decedents are notified that all claims against the estates will be forever barred unless presented to Linda Thompson and Kathy Jensen, co-trustees of the Ronald W and Shirley I Onken trust within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Co-Trustees: Linda Thompson & Kathy Jensen
5476 124th Ave
Fennville MI 49408

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 25-65625 DE and JUDGE Hon. Jolene Clearwater
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of Linda Lou Goldy, Deceased Date of Birth:*XXX
TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Linda Lou Goldy, died June 11, 2018 .

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to David Daniel Goldy , personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

May 13, 2025
James E. Burnett, Burnett & Kastran, P.C. (P22816)
313 Hubbard Street
Allegan, MI 49010
(269) 673-8407
David Daniel Goldy
397 Dorothy Street
Plainwell, MI 49080
(269) 685-8260

TO ALL PERSONS, including: (specify non-custodial parent's name here, if applicable)

whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: TINLEE KAY RODGERS has filed a petition for name change.

A name change hearing will be held on TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2025 AT 9:00AM EST at FAMILY COURT COURTROOM before Judge Hon. Jolene Clearwater P74848 , to change the name of: TINLEE KAY RODGERS to TINLEE KAY VANDERKAMP

STATE OF MICHIGAN
48TH CIRCUIT COUrt JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY
STATE OF MICHIGAN
ORDER REGARDING
ALTERNATE SERVICE
CASE NO. 2570023CK
Court address 113 CHESTNUT ST COUNTY BLDG., ALLEGAN, MI 49010
Court telephone no (269) 673-0300
Plaintiff's name, address, and telephone no.
COMMUNITY CHOICE CREDIT UNION
c/o Attorney
Plaintiff's attorney, bar no., address, and telephone no.
HOLZMAN LAW, PLLC.
Daniel Holzman (P82344) / Michael T. Mamut (P81102)
Clarence A.S. Kennedy (P88082)
28366 Franklin Road
Southfield. MI 48034
248-355-2240
v
Defendent
ADELBERT Canfeild
4884 112TH AVE
PULLMAN MI, 49450
THE COURT FINDS:

1. Service of process upon the defendant, ADELBERT CANFORD cannot reasonably be made as provided in MCR 2.105 and service of process may be made in a manner that is reasonably calculated to give the defendant actual notice of the proceedings and an opportunity to be heard.

IT IS ORDERED:

2. Service of the summons and complaint and a copy of this order shall be made by the following method(s).

a. First-class mail to 4884 112TH AVE PULLMAN, MI 49450

b. Tacking or firmly affixing to the door at 4884 112TH AVE PULLMAN, MI 49450

d. Other: ceitiod Mail / Return Receipt Requested

Publish for 3 Consecutive weeks per MCR 2.106

For each method used, proof of service must be filed promptly with the court.

Matthew Antioviak P-59446
5-22 6-6

TO ALL PERSONS, including: (specify non-custodial parent's name here, if applicable)

whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: KENDRA BETH KLEEHAMMER has filed a petition for name change.

A name change hearing will be held on TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2025 AT 9:45 AM EST at FAMILY COURT COURTROOM before Judge Hon. Jolene Clearwater P74848, to change the name of: KENDRA BETH KLEEHAMMER to KENDRA BETH GOODING

Circuit Court Case No. 22-66437-CH NOTICE OF JUDICIAL SALE In pursuance and by virtue of an Order of the Circuit Court for the County of Allegan, State of Michigan, made and entered on the 20th day of November, 2024, in a certain cause therein pending, wherein David Setzke was the Plaintiff, and Hany Boutros the Defendant. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Mich. Court Rule 3.403, the Allegan County Circuit Court has authorized Hany Boutros to conduct a partition sale of all of a certain piece or parcel of land situated in the City of Fennville, County of Allegan, State of Michigan, commonly known as 2425 58th Street, Fennville, MI 49408, Parcel I.D. No. 62-032-030-00. A hearing will be held at the Allegan County Circuit Court, 113 Chestnut St., Allegan, MI 49010, on the 17th day of July, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., in the courtroom of Judge Matthew Antkoviak, in case number 22-66437-CH, to confirm the sale of the above-described property to Hans Hansen in a cash sale for the price of $645,000. Confirmation of the sale is subject to any higher and better offers that may be submitted at the confirmation hearing. Dated: May 15, 2025 CLARK HILL PLC By: David F. Hansma (P71056) Attorney for Defendant
(05-22)(06-26)

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
ALLEGAN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 25-65577-DE and JUDGE
Court address 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Court telephone no.(269) 673-0250
Estate of Charlene Grace Kelley Date of Birth:*6/05/1960
TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Charlene Grace Kelley, died 3/24/2025 .

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Gordon Kelley, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 113 Chestnut Street, Allegan, MI 49010 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Elizabeth Robinson P84345
4341 S Westnedge Avenue, Ste 1200
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
269-344-0700
Gordon Kelley
1987 6th Street
Martin, MI 49070
269-303-8947

LICATION OF NOTICE TO CREDITORS REVOCABLE TRUST

In the Matter of: The Mary Hardy Revocable Trust

TAKE NOTICE: The Mary Hardy Revocable Trust ("The Trust") was established on January 4, 2007. The Settlor, Mary Hardy lived at 3252 Lakeview Drive, Allegan, MI 49010. Mary Hardy was born on March 10, 1937 and died on April 6, 2025.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: Creditors of Settlor, Mary Hardy, and/or "The Trust" are notified that all claims against The Mary Hardy Revocable Trust will be forever barred unless presented to: Mark Hardy, Successor Trustee, of 3252 Lakeview Drive, Allegan, Michigan 49010, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Dated: May 13 2025
David F. Kiel (P43048)
ORTON, TOOMAN, HALE, McKOWN & KIEL, P.C.
314 Trowbridge St., P.O. Box 239
Allegan, MI 49010
(269) 673-2136

STATE OF MICHIGAN
48th CIRCUIT COURT- FAMILY Division
ALLEGAN COUNTY
PUBLICATION OF HEARING
PETITION NO. 1
CASE NO. 25-70292-NA
Court Address: 113 Chestnut, Allegan, MI 49010
TO:ALLEGAN COUNTY NEWS
241 HUBBARD STREET
ALLEGAN, MI 49010
N THE MATTER OF: ALEXANDER HINMON AND DENALI HINMON-FREEMAN

A PUTATIVE FATHER HEARING will be conducted by the court on FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2025 at 1:00 PM in 48™ CIRCUIT COURT-FAMILY DIVISION before HON. JOLENE A. CLEARWATER.

You have the right to an attorney and the right to a trial by a judge or jury.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that WILLIAM PHELPS OR ANY UNKNOWN FATHER OF ALEXANDER HINMON BORN TO ROSE HINMON ON 03/12/2009, AND ALSO BRETT FREEMAN OR ANY UNKNOWN FATHER OF DENALI HINMON-FREEMAN BORN TO ROSE HINMON ON 06/17/2016 personally appear before the court at the time and place stated above. This hearing may result in the termination of your parental rights. 113 Chestnut St. Allegan, MI 49010, Family Division.

Dated: 5/16/25
Judge Jolene A. Clearwater (P74848)

CLASSIFIEDS

Misc.

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Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-855-773-8191 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Lawsuit

IF YOU HAD KNEE OR HIP REPLACEMENT SURGERY and suffered an infection between 2020 and the present time, you may be entitled to compensation. Call Attorney Charles H. Johnson 1-800-535-5727

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(616) 836-3970

GARAGE SALE

Saturday 5/24 8am to 1pm -
6907 Butternut Ln Fennville - Multifamily garage sale

Indoor/outdoor Designer rug 78" x 117", indoor air cleaner, exercise bike stand, outdoor chair covers, housewares, clothing, jewelry, wood chair, weed wacker, x-mas tree stand, barware, woodworking router bits, paint sprayer, pneumatic impact wrenches and more.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

4	6	9	5	2	8	3	1	7
2	7	1	3	6	9	8	4	5
8	3	5	4	7	1	6	2	9
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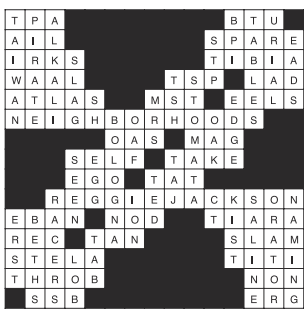

CONSTRUCTION

CONSTRUCTION
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RELIGION SECTION

I was shaving on Easter Monday I heard the news on the radio of Pope Francis' death, and it surprised me. Hadn't we just seen him the day before, waving to the crowds who had come to the Vatican to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus? Then the next morning, he was gone. All things considered, what a perfect way to pass away.

One phrase which we all heard repeated many times over is "Holy Father." It is one of the titles associated closely with the Popes, and I like it. No, I am not a Roman Catholic, so it is impossible for me to understand it completely. However, I did have a father, so I get the general drift of its meaning.

We sometimes speak of the 'father figure.' Usually, it is an older, intelligent, experienced man with a kind and gracious heart. For those of us of a certain age, television provides examples in programs such as Leave it to Beaver, Father Knows Best, and Andy Griffith. Suffice it to know that Archie Bunker and George Jefferson will not make the cut.

Above all, regardless of the individual's intellect or any other attribute, we want personal connection from someone who touches our heart and mind on our level. Pope Francis ticked many of the right boxes for many people. He was the great leader of a vast church, powerful and influential, yet welcomed a young child who spontaneously came up to him in the middle of an important meeting. On his last day, while touring the courtyard in front of St Peter's, he paused to bless an infant.

This was never staged or planned. It was not a 'photo-op' to make him look good. It came straight from the heart, and people loved him because of it.

The world will always have a desperate need for father figures, and it is never based on their wealth or status. It is their heart that matters. Some seventy years later, and I remember how Dr. Howard Polley would drop down to his knees in the middle of the church foyer to shake hands on my level. No one told me he was a famous physician who helped develop Cortisone and was well known around the world. We were friends, and that is all that mattered then or now.

Or Evans, the custodian at the local historical society where I had my first job as his assistant, who taught practical lessons in self-discipline and hard work. Or, Mr. Ness who had a small cabinet making shop, and shared his knowledge of different types of wood. Or Professor Henry who, when he realized I had a passionate interest in church history, always welcomed me into his office for tea and conversation.

All of these men, along with many others, had an openness and a heart for other people. They gave of themselves and wanted nothing in return.

As I wrote, Pope Francis gave us some good examples of how, by a few moments of what might be called the human touch, can make the lives of others so much better. If we choose, we can join their ranks.

G C Stoppel
Priest Associate
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Allegan, MI

Directory of Area Churches

Allegan Assembly of God
424 DeLano St, Allegan
Pastors Tim Heath & Paul Hays
Church: 673-6577

Allegan Bible Church
412 S. Sherman, Allegan
Pastor Jon Gruss
Church: 673-6831

Allegan Christian Center
700 Ely St., Allegan
Paul Knuckles, Pastor
Church: 673-2921

Allegan County Jail
Chaplain Sarah Montgomery
Phone: 673-0350

Allegan United Methodist Church
Corner Walnut & Trowbridge streets, Allegan
Pastor Julia Humenik
Church: 673-4236;

At the Master's Feet
814 21st St., Otsego
269-694-6897
Paster Ray Brown

Blessed Sacrament Church
110 N. Cedar Street, Allegan
Fr. Simon Manjooran
Church: 673-4455

Bloomingdale Bible Church
210 Chestnut at Pine NW
Bloomingdale
Ofc. 269-427-2101

Bravo Community Church
5587 113th Ave., Fennville
Pastor Duane Terpstra
616-886-1214

Burnips United Methodist
4241 30th, Burnips
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
616-896-8410

Calvary Church of Wayland (IFCA)
304 S. Main Street, Wayland
Pastor Chad Peckham
ccwayland.org

Casco United Methodist Church
880 66th Street, South Haven
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
269-227-3328
www.cascoumc.org

Chicora Country Chapel
4399 108th Ave., Allegan
Pastor Herb Curry
Phone: 269-370-5834

Christ Community Church
3370 113th Ave., Allegan
www.alleganccc.org ·
(269) 673-2329
Pastor Wally Coots

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
687 Linn Street, Allegan
Church: 673-9617

Church of God - Otsego
112 Kalamazoo St., Otsego
Pastor Stephen Burrow Sr.
269-694-9481
www.otsegocog.com

Corner Bible Church
4001 124th Allegan
673-5995
www.cornerbiblechurch.com

CrossWind Community Church
1632 142nd Avenue
Dorr, MI 49323
616-359-9013
Pastor Tommy Boutell

Dunningville Reformed Church
2559 M-40, Allegan
Church: 751-5894
Pastor Eric Burrows-Stone
dunningville.org/index.html

East Martin Christian Reformed Church
510-118th Ave., Martin
269-672-5746
www.eastmartincrc.org

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
101 North Walnut St, Allegan
Office: 673-2254

Faith Baptist Church
2846 125th Ave., Allegan
John Looman, Pastor
673-5040 1-888-354-3272

Fennville Assembly of God
5897 124th Ave.
Fennville, MI 49408
269-561-2683

Fennville United Methodist Church
5849 124th St., Fennville
269-561-5048
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

First Presbyterian Church
200 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church: 673-4631
www.fpcallegan.org
10:30 service time.

First Baptist Church
1290 32nd St., Allegan
Service at 10:00am
Pastors Nathan Smith & Brendon Bayley
www.fbcallegan.com

First Baptist Church of Otsego
247 E Allegan St., Otsego
(269) 694-4160
firstbaptist@fbcotsego.org

First Church of God
1313 Marshall Street, Allegan
269 673-3881
www.pathtohim.org
Pastor, Tim Secord

First Congregational Church
323 Cutler Street, Allegan
Church Office: 673-3139
Pastor Todd Wagner

First Congregational Church
120 W. Morrell St., Otsego
269-694-6085
Pastor Lenny Luchetti

First Presbyterian Church of Plainwell
303 East Bridge St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
685-5990

Friendship Bible Church
104 Baker St., Hopkins, MI
Pastor Chris Cronk and Worship Pastor Tony Caldarona
Office 793-7929

Ganges Baptist Church
6577 122nd Avenue, Fennville
269-543-4203
11AM each Sunday

Grace Church of Hamilton
3690 Lincoln Rd. P.o. Box 97
Hamilton Mi 49419
269.264.4900
Gracechurchofhamilton@gmail.com

Haven Church
PO Box 1
4691 Oak Street, Hamilton
(269)751-7300
Pastor Mike Drew
FB:havenreformedchurch

Hope Lutheran Church
290 12th St., Plainwell
(269) 685-1348
Pastor Nicole Smith
Worship 10:30am; S. School 9:15am

Hopkins Community Reformed Church
2142 128th Ave., Hopkins
(269) 793-7361
hopkinscommunitychurch.net

Hopkins United Methodist Church
322 N. Maple St., Hopkins
(269) 793-7323
Pastor Kelsey French

Horseshoe Community Bible Church
4950 104th Avenue, Grand Junction
269-521-4580 ·
Pastor Don Miller

Immanuel Lutheran Church
631 Grand Street, Allegan
Church: 673-3335
Rev. Christopher Laughlin

Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness
2199 Taft Road, Allegan
Phone: 673-6179

Living Waters Community Church
5458 M-89, Fennville
Service: 10:30 Sundays
Pastor Andrew Leach
269-561-5277

M-40 North Church of God
1900 M-40, Allegan
Pastor Nathan Strom
Church: 673-4412

Martin Reformed Church
1073 W. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor: Matthew Hendricks
672-5596

Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan St., Martin
Pastor Margaret Stoken
269-672-7097
www.martinumc.org

Merson Church
3313 102nd Ave., Gobles, MI
Pastor Alan Carson
Office: 673-5274
www.mersonchurch.org

Montage Ministries
"A Community in Worship"
Griswold Auditorium
Tuesdays 6:30-8:00pm

Monterey Center United Methodist Church
3022 130th Ave.
Monterey Center, 49328
Craig VanBeek, Pastor
793-7288

Mt. Calvary M.B. Church
5425 105th Ave., Pullman
Pastor Everett Belue
269-382-3405

New Hope Baptist Church
2011 Lincoln Road (M-40 N)
Pastor Tadd Butler
673-1938

Northbridge Church
8824 Douglas, Kalamazoo
269-385-4378 ·
www.northbridge.cc

Northpoint Ministries
10976 M40 (M40/CR390)
Gobles MI · 269.628.9199
Pastor Gary Lounsberry
Sunday Worship: 11am

OAKLAND CRC
4460 38th Street
Hamilton. Mi. 49419
616 688 5290
Pastor Mark Vande Zande

Otsego United Methodist Church
223 E Allegan St. Otsego MI
10:00 a.m. Worship
Reverend Dan Minor
Otsegomethodistchurch.org

Peace Lutheran Church
805 S. Wilmott St., Otsego
www.peaceotsego.com
694-6104

Pearl United Methodist Church
1689 56th St., Fennville
269-561-5048 Worship 9:30 am
Bob Lynch, Pastor
www.fennvilleumc.org

Iglesia de Dios Pentecostal M.I. Pentecostal Church of God I.M
2281 57th St, Fennville
Wed/Miércoles @ 7:00 pm
Sunday/Domingo @ 10:00 am
Worship Service @ 11:00am
Rev. Jeremias & Maribel Gaytan
231) 923-6887 - (231) 923-6959
Email: gytnj@yahoo.com

Plainwell First Baptist Church
404 W. Bridge St., Plainwell
(269) 685-8888
Pastor George Osborn

Plainwell First United Methodist Church
200 Park St. Plainwell
269-685-5113
www.fumcplainwell.com

Rectify Church
247 N. Main St., Allegan
616-218-1556
Pastor Sarah Montgomery

Refreshing Springs Ministries
201 Briggs St., Allegan
616-510-7416
Pastor Adrian Hall

Restoration Christian Community
Live service 10:00 am Sundays
RestorationChristianCommunity.org
Pastor Austin T Kreutz
269 567 8330

River of Life Church
605 W. Allegan, Otsego
269-672-9904
www.alleganchurch.com

Seventh Day Adventist Church
229 Cutler Street, Allegan
Dan Rachor, Pastor
Church: 673-3284

Shelbyville United Methodist Church
938 124th Ave., Shelbyville
672-7097 - Church office
Pastor Margaret Stoken

South Monterey United Methodist Church
Pastor Kelsey French
Church: 793-7323

St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church
11850 9 Mile Rd., Shelbyville
269-664-4345
Service: Sundays 9:30 am

Saint John's Church Of God In Christ
716 Academy St, Allegan
Rev. Jeremiah Johnson Sr.
Phone: 673-8590—673-3007

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1764 34th St., Allegan
Pastor Ronald Kruse 673-2079
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

St. Margaret's Catholic Church
766 S. Farmer St., Otsego
269-694-6311

Third Coast Community Church
www.thirdcoastff.org |
269.857.5633
6069 Blue Star Hwy, Saugatuck, MI 49453
Sunday Worship: 10:00am

Trowbridge Community Church
355 26th Street, Otsego
Pastor Mykel Hall, Pastor
Church: 673-5502

The River Flows with Hope and Healing
1652 M-40 North, Allegan
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Unity Baptist Church
35 14 12th St. Wayland
Pastor Kelly Ryan
Cell # (269) 330-2217

Watson Bible Church
1626 116th St., Otsego
Pastor Tim Morris
672-2166

Wayland Community Church
502 West Superior, Wayland
(616) 877-6134
Worship Sunday @ 10:30am

UniPac "Contract Packaging Specialist" 809 Airway Dr. – Highland Industrial Park 269-673-8488
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NAPA AUTO PARTS 1513 Lincoln Rd., Allegan 269-673-3080
Ted's Auto Body Shop, Inc 892 34th St., Allegan 269-673-2309 Fax: 269-686-8508 tedsab1@gmail.com
A&A ANTKOVIAK & ANTKOVIAK PC For all your legal services 416 Hubbard St, Allegan • (269) 673-8468 antkoviak@frontier.com
Furniture Mattress Appliance COUNTRY HOUSE FURNITURE Your Complete Home Furnishing Store! 212 Trowbridge, Allegan, MI (269) 686-1155 8337 M-140 Hwy., South Haven, MI (269) 637-6135 www.countryhousefurniture.net
God Integrity Vision Encouragement He Opens People's Eyes www.HOPKINSPROPANE.com
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BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices Cheri Sleeman Schulz Associate Broker, REALTOR 269-720-4735 cherischulz@bhhsmi.com 430 Western Avenue, Allegan